RED EYES

レッドアイズ

JUN SHINDO

神堂潤

KCDX 2056

レッドアイズ
red eyes

9

神堂潤

講談社

9784063720563

1929979005054

雑誌 46294-56

ISBN4-06-372056-X

C9979 ¥505E (0)

講談社/定価:本体505円(税別)

MONTHLY SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

redEyes 9

STORY & ART
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characters

DRAGNOV FEDERATION

GENERAL ALEXANDER H. POWELL OVERSEES THE OCCUPATION TROOPS IN REGIUM.

RUDOLF CHEKA ACTS AS KRAYZ' BODYGUARD, UNDER THE ALIAS OF "NIGHTMARE".

JULIAN KRAYZ
>GRAND CHAOS.<
A MAN WHO OPERATES UNDER THE BANNER OF "RESTORATIVE CHAOS".HIS TRUE IDENTITY IS UNKNOWN.

DIVAN

DANIEL MURDOCK
DESCENDANT OF THE FORMER DUKEDOM OF KENT, REGARDS KRAYZ AS AN ENEMY.

>DOYEN<
THIS OLD MAN ADMINISTERS THE DESCENDANTS OF THE FORMER KINGDOM OF LOOMIS' NOBILITY.

REPUBLIC OF REGIUM

BAROS WALD.
... DEAD.

MIKHAIL WALDMANN
... DEAD.

ROD SERONI
EX-JRR.
CURRENT AFFILIATION, ACTIVITIES, ETC...
UNKNOWN.

LIEUTENANT LEILA KRUGER
LIEUTENANT KRAYZ'S SUBORDINATE.

EX-JACKALS

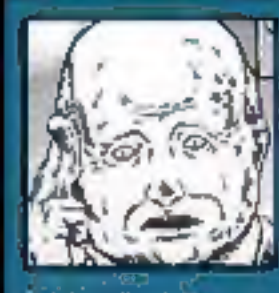
KLAUS GARDNER
A GENIUS OF INFORMATION-GATHERING AND MANAGEMENT/ OPERATION. SUPERVISES TROOPS SUPPLYING.

LENNY KRUGER
AN ACE FIGHTER, PROFICIENT IN THE USE OF SAA ARMOR.

GRAHAD MILLS
>GENOCIDE<
FORMER HERO, KNOWN UNDER THE DREADED NAME OF "BATTLEFIELD REAPER".

PEOPLE'S ARMY OF REGIUM

LEON RIDAS
TACTICAL SECTION MANAGER, COLONEL.
A RARE STRATEGIST.



LIEUTENANT GENERAL HORST PALLMANN
MILITARY CHIEF OF STAFF.

GENERAL EDWARD HAMEL
COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE PEOPLE'S ARMY (FORMERLY 3RD BATTALLION).

ANTHONY HOWARD.
RESPONSIBLE OF THE SAA SCHEMATICS' DEVELOPMENT FOR AGI.

SAYA HAMILTON.
A GIRL WHO FOLLOWS MILLS AROUND. SHE'S A WAR ORPHAN.

WHERE IS HE?!

...DID HE DISAPPEAR TO..?!

WHERE THE HELL...

ヤセル

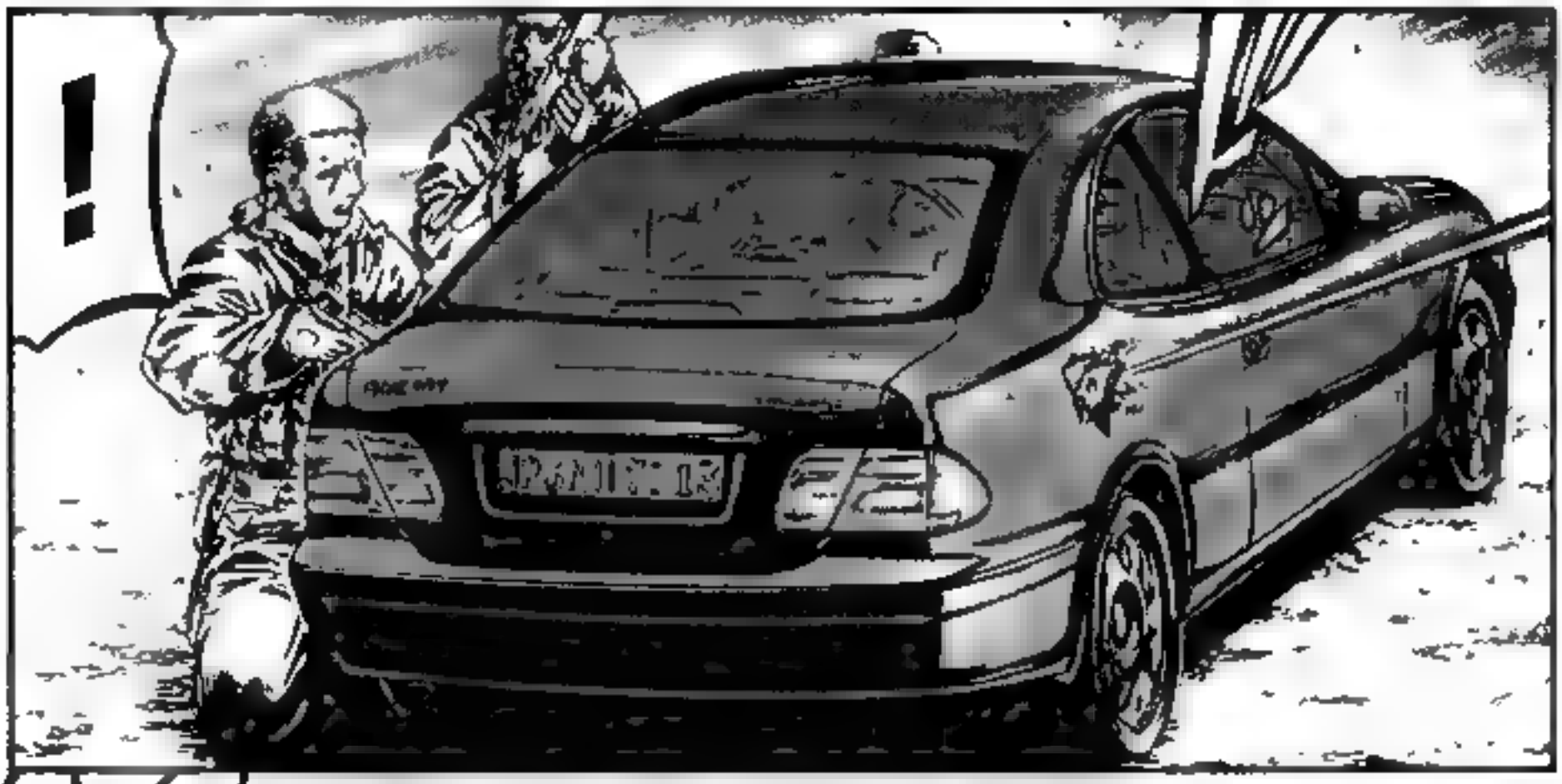
#29 DARK ECHELON

ON THE TOP OF THE TRUCK! FIRE!!

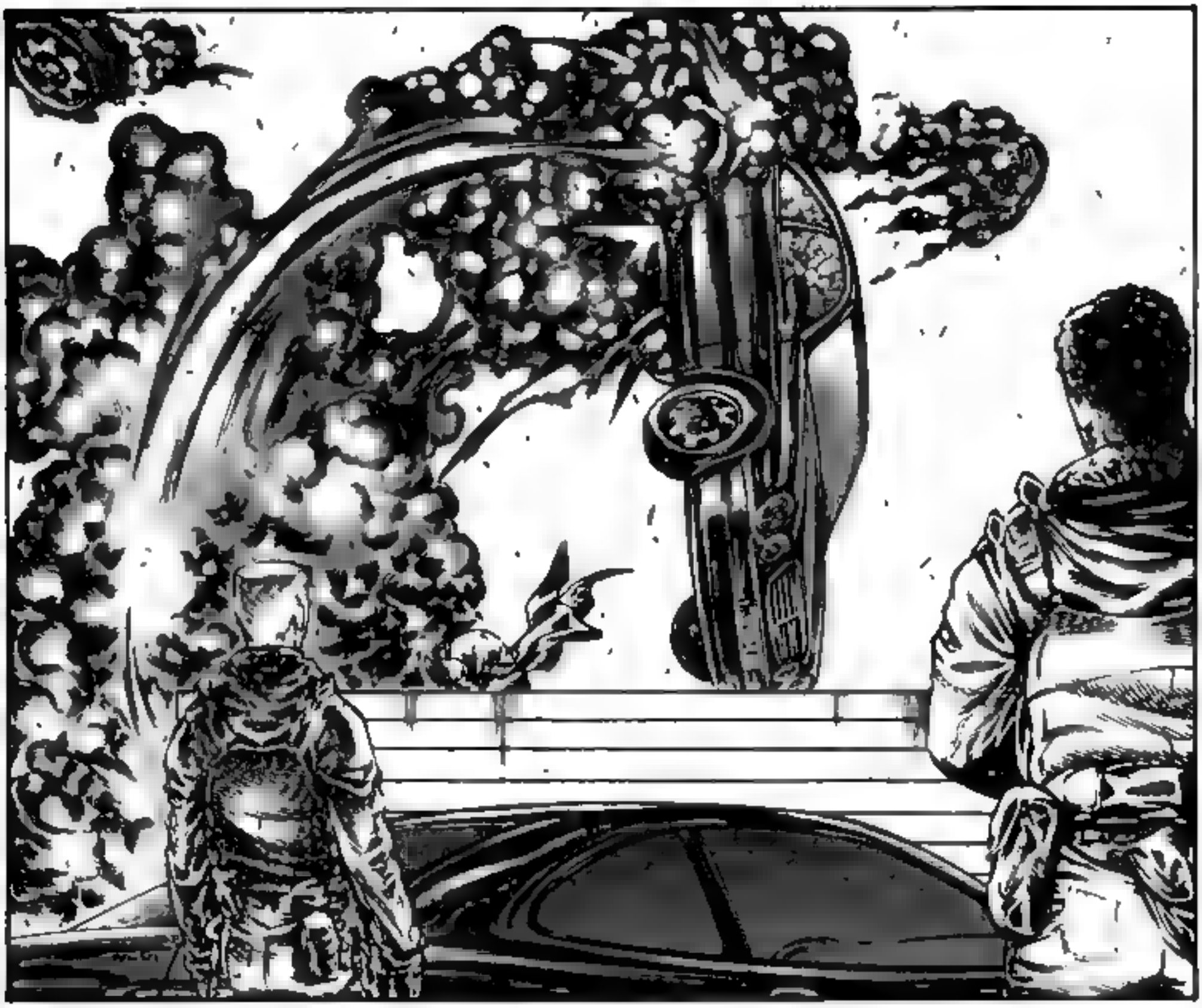
THE BAST-ARD TOOK COVER!

TSK!

ZAP


!

OH, SHI-!



!

FIRE!
FIRE!!

...THINK YOU ARE ?!

WHO DO YOU ...

BLOODY HELL! HIT HIM !!

OOGH!

HELL NO! I'M NOT HAVING IT!!

I... IMPOS-SIBLE!
THIS MUST BE... A DREAM ...?!

AN ELITE SQUAD LIKE US, TAKEN OUT BY A SINGLE MAN...

!

...WAKE ME UP NOW!!

IF I AM DREAM-ING...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU DID, BUT...

HEH...

ACTING ALL SCARY AND SHIT...

STAY RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE! SO I CAN SHOOT YOU...

...HOLES ?!

FULL OF...

MY HAND... IT'S GONE...

U... UH?

AH, MY HAND.

HM..?

...IS?!

THERE IT...

TELL ME, COLONEL ...

...AND APPOINT HIM AS THEIR LEADER ..?!

...TO TAKE SUCH A FREAK OF NATURE ...

...JUST WHAT IS THAT ORDER OF THE LOOMS KNIGHTS ...

I BELIEVE IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU LEARNED EVERY-THING...

INDEED, LEILA KRUGER.

EACH ONE OF THEM IS ALLOWED THEIR OWN PERSONAL ARMY, AND THEY HAVE SOME SOCIETY COVERING ALL OF THEIR EXPENSES.

THESE 11 GUYS ARE BOARD MEMBERS IN THE DIVAN ORGAN-IZATION PROPER. THE CREAM OF THE CROP.

UNBEKNOWNST TO THEM, HOWEVER... I CONTROL A MILITIA OF BERSERKING WARRIORS, WHICH I'VE INHERITED BY BIRTH AND BY BLOOD: THE ORDER OF THE LOOMIS KNIGHTS.

CONVERSELY, I DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO A FORCE OF MY OWN, SINCE I'M NOT PART OF THAT BOARD.

BUT NOW THAT THE FATEFUL DAY IS CLOSE AT HAND ...

...THEY ARE ALL RALLYING UNDER MY BANNER.

FOR A VERY LONG TIME, THEIR EXISTENCE WAS KEPT A SECRET... THE WARRIORS WERE SCATTERED JUST ABOUT EVERY-WHERE.

SOLDIERS. CIVIL OFFICERS... MANY EVEN MAKE A LIVING ABROAD AS MERCENARIES.

EVEN WITH THE INFAMOUS NIGHTMARE AT THEIR HEAD, A SMALL BATTALION CAN'T POSSIBLY STAND UP TO THAT!!

BUT PUT TOGETHER, THE DIVAN II'S FORCES AMOUNT TO AN ENTIRE REGIMENT!

THE ORDER OF THE LOOMIS KNIGHTS...

...LIVE FOR THE DAY WHEN EVENTUALLY, THEY MUST FACE THE ENTIRE WORLD!

ELIMINATING THAT ILL-ASSORTED GANG OF MERCENARIES WILL HARDLY BE WORTH MENTIONING.

HEH... THE DIVAN ARMY, EH?

"THIS IS MADNESS." IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE THINKING?

FACE THE... ENTIRE WORLD..?!

IN ADDITION, THE LOOMIS KNIGHTS AREN'T JUST A MERE HANDFUL.

FEAR NOT. I'M NO MEGA-LOMANIAC...

FROM THE INFANTRY TO THE NAVY VIA THE AIR FORCE, AND EVEN THE CLANDESTINE ASSASS-INATION SQUADS UNDER CHEKA'S CONTROL. THEY ARE EVERY-WHERE.

IN THE SAME WAY AS DIVAN'S INFLUENCE EXTENDS OVER EVERY LAYER OF SOCIETY MY KNIGHTS ARE IMPLANTED FAR AND WIDE.

TALK ABOUT WAR POTENTIAL...

..?! A WHOLE DIVISION...

PUT TOGETHER, THEY'D BE ENOUGH...

...TO MAN AN ENTIRE DIVISION.

IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY IT'S ANOTHER STORY.

WAR POTENT-IAL?

TN: ANYWHERE BETWEEN 10.000 TO 30.000 MEN.

THE LOWLIEST RANK-AND-FILE SOLDIER IS AN EXPERT IN THE ART OF WARFARE FAITHFUL, BRAVE AND POWERFUL BEYOND COMPARE

THE KINGDOM OF LOOMIS CAME TO AN END A CENTURY AGO ITS ARMY, BORN WARRIORS PASSED ON THE RESULTS OF THEIR TRAINING FROM ONE GENERATION DOWN TO ANOTHER

BETTER YET. THESE CHAMPIONS ARE SO SKILLED THEY MIGHT EVEN OUTCLASS HIM.

AND THE FOUR COMMANDERS WHO LEAD THESE BRAVES COULD STAND ON AN EQUAL FOOTING WITH THE GREAT GENOCIDE HIMSELF

THEY EVEN HAVE A NAME FOR THEM...

THE KNIGHTS REGARD THEIR 4 LEADERS WITH THE UTMOST REVERENCE ...

FREAKS OF NATURE WHO SURPASS CAPTAIN MILLS. FOUR OF THEM. NO LESS ...

THE SHIELDS OF LOOMIS.

HIS SUPERIOR TALENT SALUTED EVEN BY THE OTHER THREE.

AND AMONG THE "SHIELDS OF LOOMIS", CHEKA STANDS OUT THE MOST

...AS THE ONE WHO WOULD LEAD THEM ALL.

HE WAS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDED BY THE KNIGHTS...

...THIS ISN'T AN ESTIMATION, BUT FACT ...

SHOULD THE CLANDESTINE ASSASSINATION SQUAD UNDER CHEKA'S DIRECT CONTROL: THE PALACE BATTALLION MOVE IN FOR THE KILL.

THAT'S HOW GOOD A TROOP THEY ARE.

THEIR WAR POTENTIAL WOULD EASILY MATCH THAT OF AN ENTIRE ARMY, AND THAT'S NO EXAG-GERATION.

...EVEN THE COBRA WOULD BE ANIHILATED WITHIN DAYS.

EVEN THE ELITE SPECIAL TACTICAL CORPS, THESE MOST POWERFUL SOLDIERS AMONG SOLDIERS

OBVIOUSLY THAT'S SOMETHING ONLY A MEGALOMANIAC WOULD DO

BUT PITTING THEM ALONE AGAINST THE ENTIRE WORLD?

THE KNIGHTS MIGHT BE POWERFUL WELL BEYOND THEIR ACTUAL NUMBERS ..

BUT WHEN YOU COME DOWN TO IT, MY ULTIMATE GOAL IS THE ENTIRE WORLD.

QUICK TO THE UPTAKE AS ALWAYS, LIEUTENANT. YOU FAIL TO DISAPPOINT ME.

YOU NEED THE POWER OF GOD THAT'S IT?

. AND THAT'S WHERE ORBITER EYES COME IN.

CONQUEST, DEFENSE, YOU NAME IT. THE ORBITER EYES WILL ERASE OUR ENEMIES

AND THIS, ANYWHERE ON THE FACE OF THE PLANET, COURTESY OF ITS ULTRA-HIGH MAGNITUDE LASER.

IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT SOME OF THEM GET LUCKY ENOUGH TO SURVIVE SUCH AN ASSAULT

...ONCE REINSTATED, THE NEW ROYAL ARMY, WITH THE ORDER OF THE LOOMIS KNIGHTS AT ITS CORE WOULD OBLITERATE THEM.

...PEOPLE WILL ACKNOWLEDGE THE ESTABLISHMENT AND REIGN OF THE NEW SYLVEIN DYNASTY OF THE LOOMIS KINGDOM.

WHEN THE WORLD AT LARGE KNOWS OF OUR OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE MIGHT...

AND EVERY MAN ON EARTH WILL HEAR
THE NAME OF THE MAN WHO SHALL BECOME GOD.

...DEO ZERNES AM ELIHI O SHILTUA DEN ROTSCHILD. (LEGITIMATE CHILD OF ELIHI AND CUSTODIAN OF THE BLOODY SHIELD MEDALLION.), A.K.A...

RESTORER OF THE HOLY KINGDOM OF ROTSCHILD MISALEGGIO* ...

...JULIAN KRAYZ FONTE SYLVEIN.

...FOUNDER OF THE 9TH MONARCHY...

**"THE RED SHIELD IS WITH THE LEGTOS." FORMAL NAME OF THE LOOMIS KINGDOM.

JULIAN KRAYZ
THE FIRST.

FEW PEOPLE KNOW OF THIS.

ONLY THE HANDFUL I KNOW I CAN TRUST ...

...OF THE ROYAL HOUSE ...

A DES-CENDANT ...

AND NOW, LIEUTENANT ...

...YOU'RE PART OF THAT TINY LITTLE CLUB.

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE DONE CLEANING UP.

CONGRAT-ULATIONS, CHEKA.

I WELCOME YOUR WORDS WITH GRATITUDE ...

PHEEW.

HAAH.

HAAH.

OUR MISSION IS TO AS-SASSINATE THIS MAN!

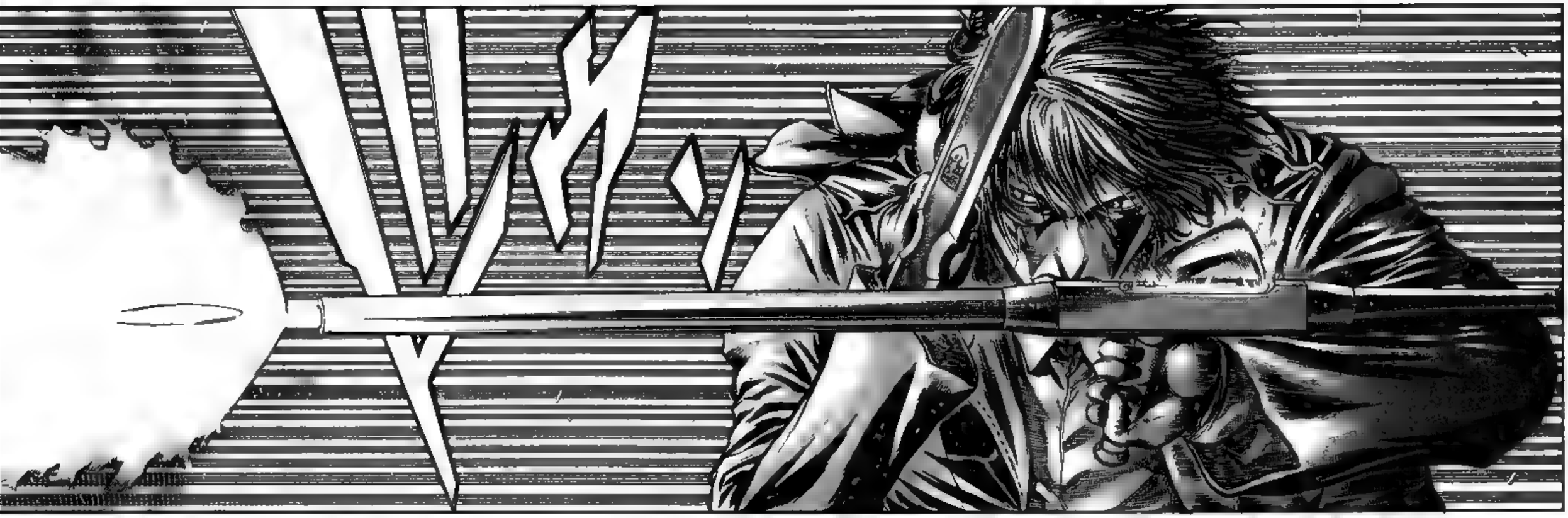
I SHALL FUL-FILL IT WITHOUT FAIL!

FOR THE SAKE OF OUR SQUAD'S HONOR...

GOTCHA!

HE KNOWS ?!

!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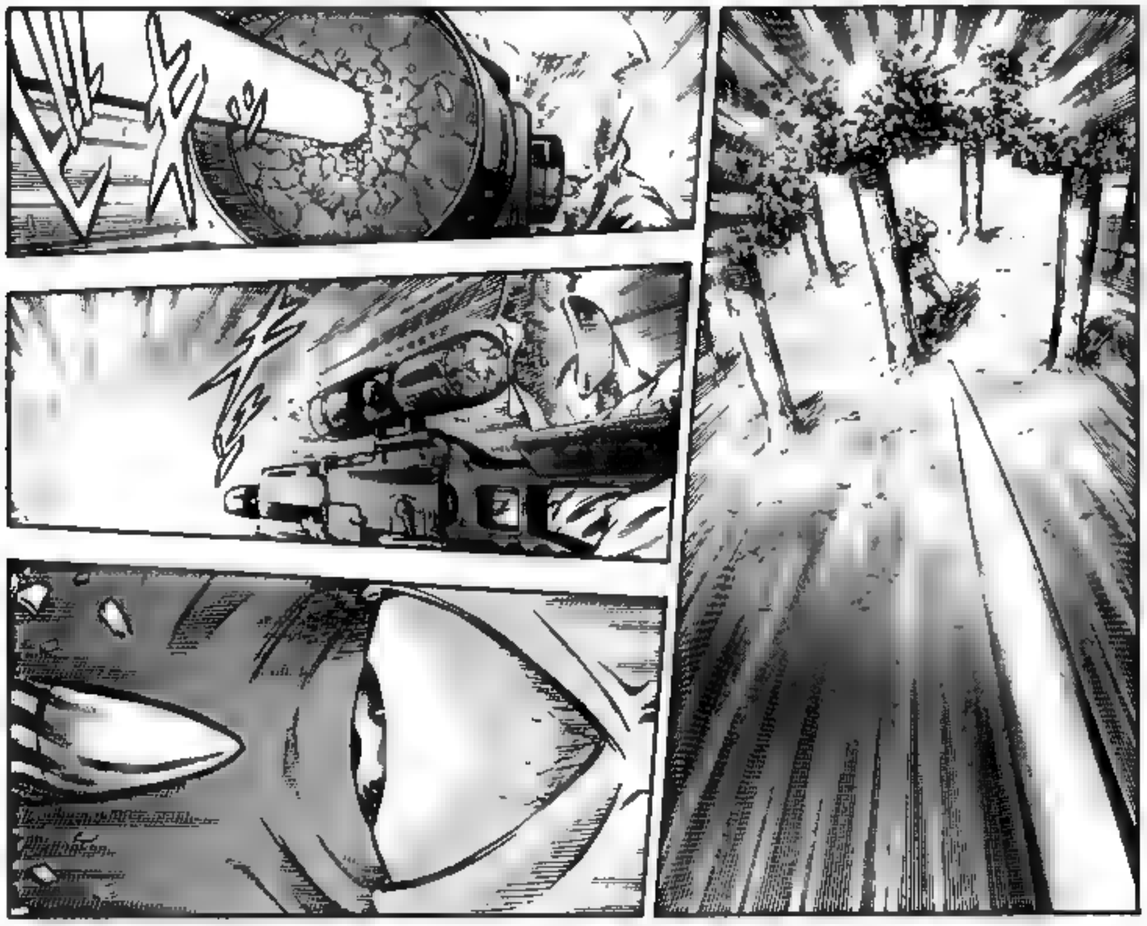
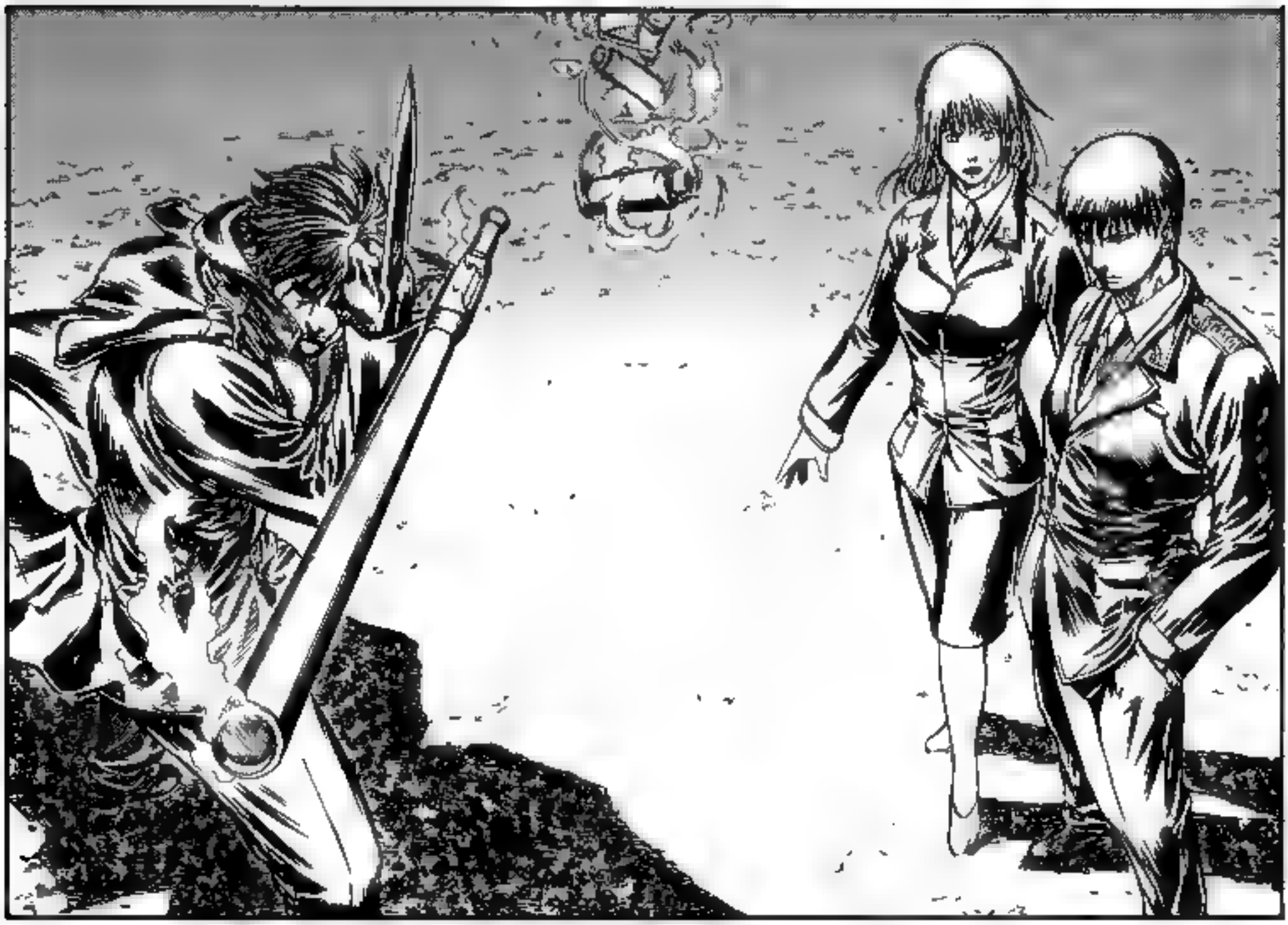
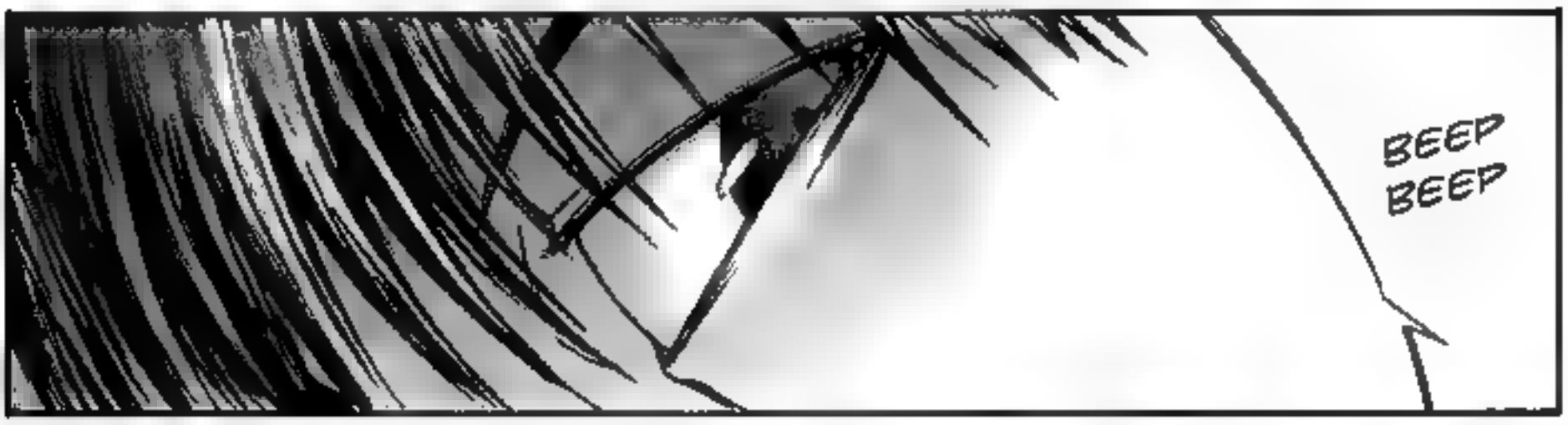




GUESS THAT WAS THE LAST ONE OF THEM...

BEEP
BEEP


BEEP
BEEP

WRRRR
WRRR

IT'S ME .. I'M STILL AWAITING THAT REPORT!

R-32

BEEP

R32 SPEAKING

HAS OUR MAN BEEN DEALT WITH?!

WHAT'S SO FUNNY, CUR?!!

!?

. HEH HEH HEH.

IT'S OFFICIAL NOW, LORD MURDOCH. YOU ARE A COMPLETE JOKE.

IS THAT THE BEST DIVAN'S ELITE HAS TO OFFER?

THAT VOICE...

!

KRAYZ !!

R-32

THAT SQUAD YOU MADE SUCH A GREAT DEAL OUT OF HAS BEEN ANNIHILATED.

I MUST REGRETFULLY INFORM YOU THAT YOUR ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT HAS FAILED.

I AM APPALLED AT YOUR IMBECILITY.

R-32

OH, MY GOOD-NESS ...

NONSENSE!

MY SQUAD, DEAD? IMPOS-SIBLE!!

...ARE YOU NOT?

YOU'RE ACTUALLY TALKING TO ME...

DON'T EXPECT TO GET OFF THE HOOK EASILY AFTER WHAT YOU'VE DONE!

FUCK YOU, KRAYZ.

GRRR ...

DO YOU WANT TO DIE?

YOU'VE MEDDLED A BIT TOO MUCH IN MY AFFAIRS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD...

HUMPH... WELL, RIGHT BACK AT YOU.

YOU WILL WATCH YOUR MOUTH!!

WH- WHAT?!! YOU MIS- BEGOTTEN PLEBEIAN!

I DON'T CARE WHAT IT TAKES, I'LL FUCKING KILL YOU!!

YOU FUCKING..! CONSIDER YOURSELF ON TOP OF MY SHIT LIST...

AND YOU THINK YOU'RE WORTHY OF YOUR GLORIOUS ANCESTORS' GOOD NAME, PERHAPS?

HEH HEH HEH... PLEBEIAN, EH? OF COURSE.

...BY THE WAY ...

WHY, NOW YOU'VE GOT ME INTERESTED. I CAN'T WAIT.

TELL ME, HOW IS SHE?

YOUR FIANCÉE HAPPENS TO BE STUDYING ABROAD, I BELIEVE.

WHY ARE YOU BRINGING THAT UP ..?!

...WH... WHY....

!?

HE WAS HOSPITALIZED IN A DELUXE SUITE AT THE MAGLAIR GENERAL HOSPITAL, WAS HE NOT?

WHAT ABOUT YOUR UNCLE? HE HAD SOME LIVER PROBLEMS, I HEAR.

WELL, NOW I ASSUME EVEN YOUR CRUDE BRAIN HAS BEEN ABLE TO ASSESS THE SITUATION.

I HAPPEN TO HAVE A LOT OF COMPETENT PEOPLE WORKING FOR ME.

WHA?!

THAT WAS THIS *MORNING*. HOW DO YOU KN...

OF COURSE, THIS ISN'T LIMITED TO PHYSICAL PROXIMITY... IF YOU CATCH MY DRIFT.

I CAN ELIMINATE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE CLOSE TO YOU WHENEVER I SEE FIT.

WHAT I DO WANT IS...

I HAVE NO INTEREST IN YOUR INSIGNIFICANT LIFE.

GH...

...THE HEIRLOOM OF HOUSE MURDOCH, FROM THE FORMER DUKEDOM OF KENT.

UNTIL THEN, JUST BE A GOOD BOY AND DO LIKE THE OLD FOSSILS...

...JUST SIT ON A CHAIR AND WAIT.

HEIR-LOOM..?

YOU'LL FIND OUT WHAT I MEAN, SOMEDAY.

HMPH ...

WHAT'S YOUR ANSWER?

...UNDER-STOOD.

I HOPE I CAN COUNT ON YOUR CONTINUED COLLAB-ORATION.

BEEP

VERY GOOD. THAT'S A SMART MOVE

THE RESOURCE-FULNESS OF ITS FOUNDER, THE MAN WHO WAS GRANTED THE RANK OF DUKE WHEN THE ROYALTY DISAPPEARED DIDN'T CARRY OVER SO WELL TO HIS DESCENDANT.

AS SOON AS I GET THE "KEY", THE MAN HIMSELF WILL BE OF NO USE...

YOU INCOMP-ETENT FOOL....

HOUSE MURDOCH HAS GONE TO THE DOGS.

A CENTURY-OLD, FANATICAL DELUSION TO PUT DIVAN TO SHAME..?

YOUR HIGHNESS... YOUR ESCORT HAS ARRIVED.

GOOD...

CERTAINLY NOT! THIS IS A RIGHTFUL AMBITION I AM ENJOINED TO PURSUE BY MY BLOOD!!

54
S.A.A SPECIAL FORCE+JACKAL

REPUBLIC OF REGLIM,
SALAGE PROVINCE,
SOUTH OF LEBLANC.
MOUNT DRATTE, RANSBAHL RANGE.
NOV 5TH, YEAR 182

TSK... WE'RE CUT OFF FROM THE UNIT

AND THE RADAR WON'T EVEN WORK, AT THAT. BLAME THE MAGNETIC FIELD, I SUPPOSE...

#30 GRAVE FOREST

...INSIDE THE "FOREST OF DEATH".

ARMORED RECON TEAM. PARENT CORPS: MAKAROV RCT, ORFELD OCCUPATION TROOPS FROM THE DRAGNOV FEDERATION

DAMN IT... THERE'S A FAIR CHANCE WE GOT LOST...

IT'S GONNA SHOW UP!

I WOULDN'T EXPECT A NEWBIE LIKE YOU TO KNOW ABOUT SUCH A THING.

WHAT'S THAT MEAN, SIR?

THE "FOREST OF DEATH" ..?

THESE PARTS SAW SOME FAIRLY BRUTAL FIGHTING DURING THE WAR.

WHAT'S "IT"..?

MOUNDS OF CORPSES PILING UP EVERYWHERE UNATTENDED, FASTER THAN THEY COULD POSSIBLY BE DEALT WITH.

AS THE DRAGNOV TROOPS FORCED THEIR WAY THROUGH RANSBAHL, IN AN EFFORT TO INVADE THE STATE OF DRUGE, THE BATTLE WE FOUGHT AGAINST OUR ENEMY WAS A DEADLY, YEAR-LONG AFFAIR.

AS A GHOST..!

THEIR HATE TOOK UP RESIDENCE INSIDE AN SAA, AND NOW THEY'RE WANDERING ABOUT.

...IN CASE SOME ENEMY MILITIA CAME FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN. ONCE THEY REACHED THE FOREST, THERE WERE NO MORE NEWS FROM THEM WHATSOEVER.

I'M NOT. COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO, A SQUAD WAS SENT ON THE LOOKOUT, ...

...BUT PLEASE, THAT'S NO REASON TO HAVE FUN AT OUR EXPENSE!

WE KNOW WE'RE NEWBIES AND ALL, SIR...

A GHOST !!

IT WAS A GHOST!

...PALE AS A CORPSE, THIS IS WHAT HE SAID BETWEEN A COUPLE OF FAINT SHUDDERS:

THREE DAYS LATER, THE ONLY SOLDIER WHO CAME BACK WAS STRICKEN WITH ABJECT FEAR...

HIS SQUADRON HAD BEEN OBLITERATED BY SOME PATCHWORK-CLAD GHOST SAA.

ACCORDING TO HIM, IT WAS WEARING A HETEROGENOUS COLLECTION OF EQUIPMENT PARTS.

GULP

THEY SENT IN A RECON SQUAD, BUT IT HASN'T COME BACK FROM THE "FOREST OF DEATH" EITHER.

AS INCREDIBLE AS IT SOUNDS, THE SQUADRON NEVER RETURNED THAT MUCH IS FOR REAL.

TALL TALES FROM PEOPLE WHO GOT EXPOSED TO THE KIND OF BAD MOJO THAT LINGERS IN PLACES THAT HAVE SEEN ENOUGH BLOODSHED.

JUST KIDDING! C'MON NICKY DID YOU REALLY FREAK OUT RIGHT HERE? OH WELL. THERE ARE STORIES OF COURSE, BUT THEY'RE JUST THAT

SAME FOR ME. RUMORS TEND TO BLOW THINGS OUT OF PROPORTION. BATTLEFIELD STORIES, ESPECIALLY. THESE TEND TO CRANK IT UP TO ELEVEN...

I MUST SEE BEFORE I CAN BELIEVE AFTER ALL, RUMORS ARE NOTHING ELSE BUT TALK

I'M MORE OF A ST THOMAS PERS- UASION MYSELF.

AND IT'S NOT LIKE GHOSTS ACTUALLY EXIST IN THE FIRST PLA...

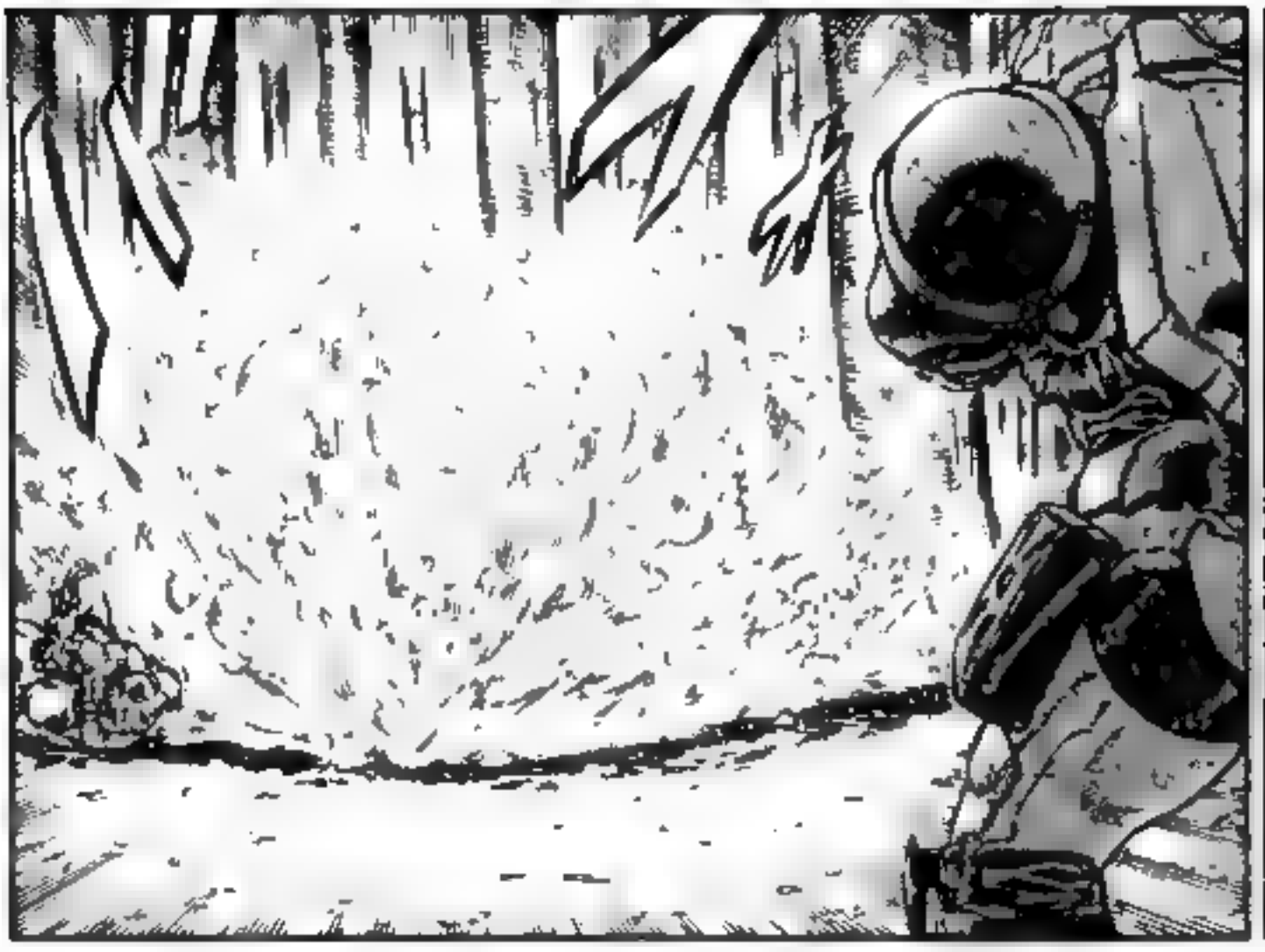
WHO ARE YOU?!

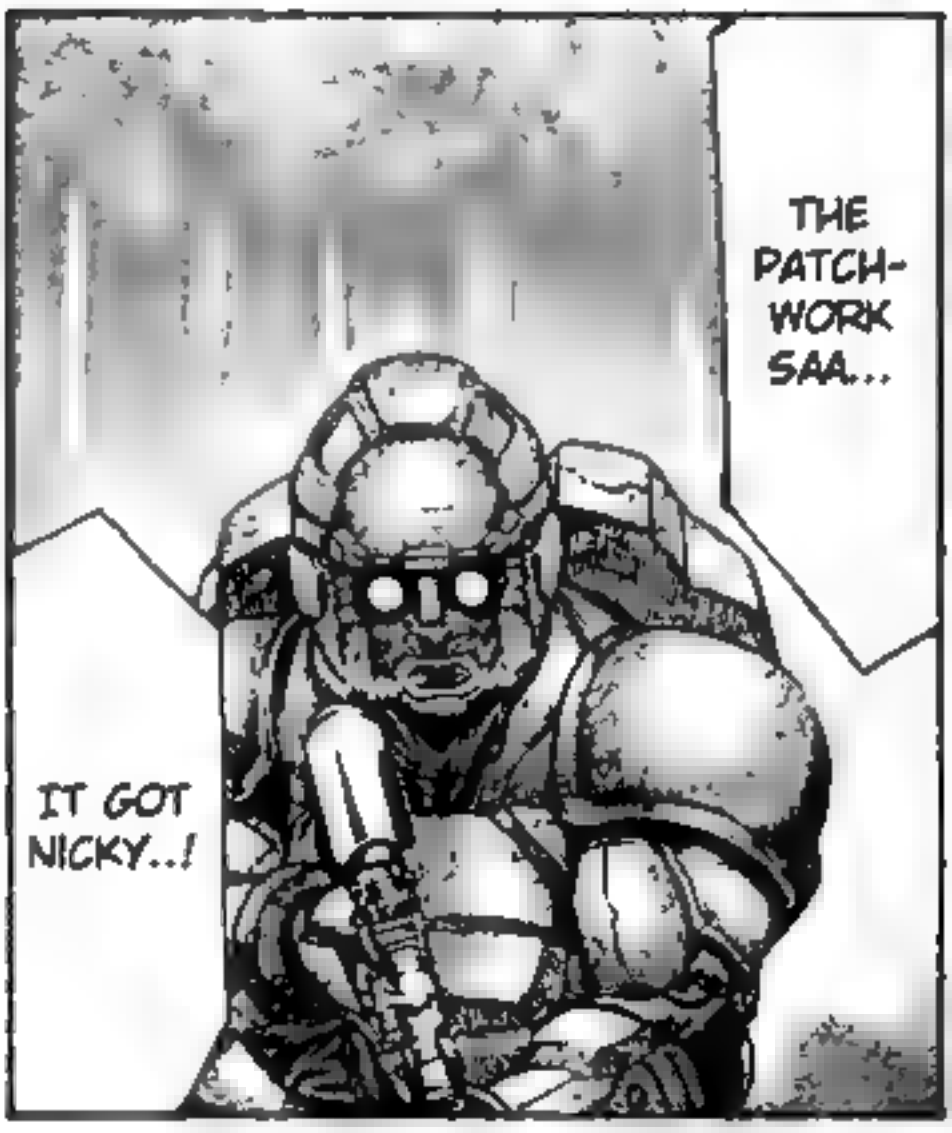
YOU MOTHER-FUCKER !!

TH-THE GHO...

GHASP!

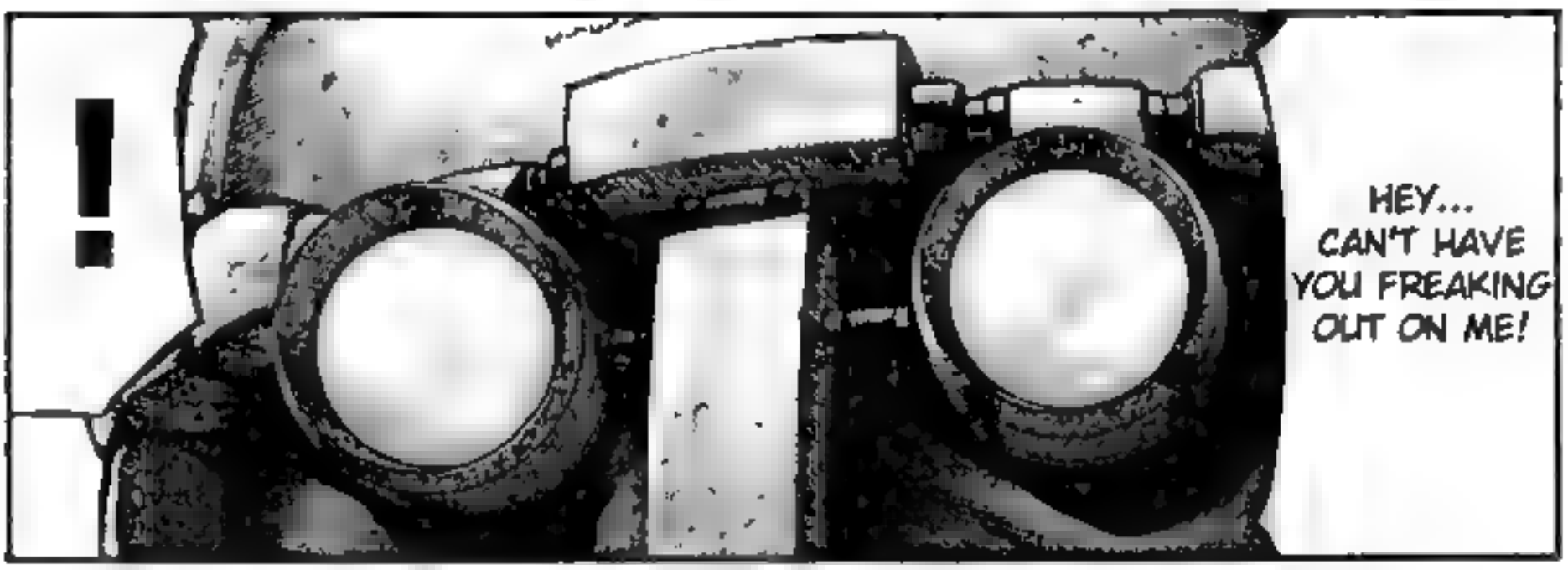
!



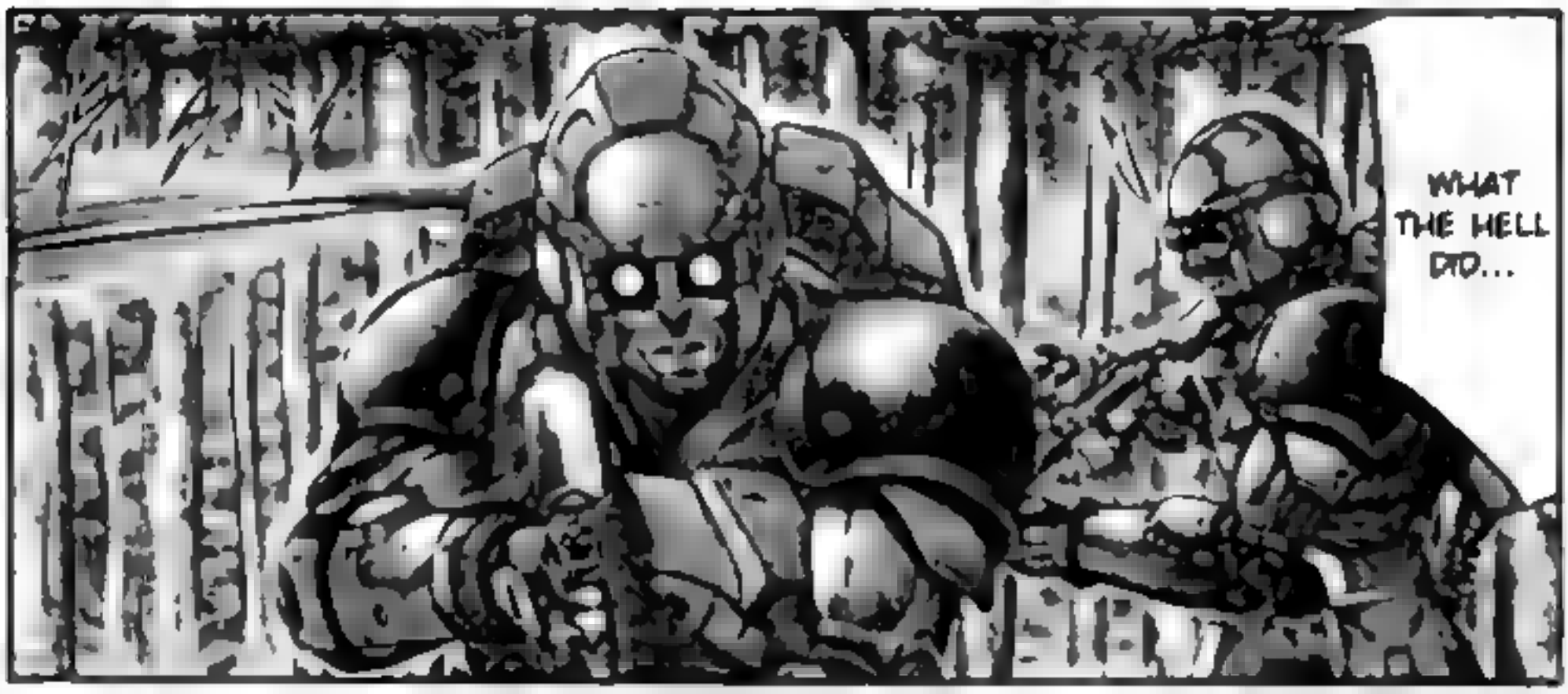

THE PATCH-WORK SAA...
IT GOT NICKY..!

!?

WHAT'S GOING ON, O-LAKE?!


!
HEY... CAN'T HAVE YOU FREAKING OUT ON ME!

NICKY!!


WHAT THE HELL DID...

GHHHH...

IT'S TOO SOON, I DON'T WANNA DIE!

EEEEEK! IT'S HIM! IT'S THE GHOST!!

EEGORY TOO! NO WAY! DOES THAT THING EXIST FOR REAL?

CAREFUL WHERE YOU'RE GOING!!

WAIT, O-LAKE!

GHAAAA AAARGH !!

WHO AAH!

O-LAKE!!

...THERE IS NO GHOST.

HERE IN THIS FOREST!

"SOMEONE" IS HIDING OUT THERE.

LOKI!

QUITE UNSURP-RISINGLY.

TRAPS EVERY-WHERE.

...BUT I'M NOT GONNA FALL FOR SUCH PETTY TRICKS.

THE RECRUITS WERE ONE THING...

ACK!

OUR GRATITUDE GOES TO THE PILOTS WHO FLEW INTO ENEMY AIRSPACE IN BROAD DAYLIGHT IN SPITE OF THE OBVIOUS DANGER.
VICE-ADMIRAL ZALIGEN*, REPORTING IN. AERIAL RECON MISSION HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT SUCCESSFULLY.
RANSBAHL PROVINCE, ALBA JULIA. PEOPLE'S ARMY OF REGIUM HEADQUARTERS.

*VICE-ADMIRAL ZALIGEN: COMMANDER OF THE REGIUM AIR FORCE 11TH DIVISION.

THAT MUCH IS ESTABL-ISHED.

ACCORDING TO OUR ANALYSES, THE ENEMY'S PREPARING FOR WINTER OCCUP-ATION.

THE FIRST SNOWS WERE REPORTED AS EARLY AS WITHIN THE LAST 10 DAYS OF OCTOBER LAST YEAR. SNOWS THAT DIDN'T START MELTING UNTIL MID-APRIL.

IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE TO EVERYONE HERE THAT RANSBAHLIAN WINTERS ARE LONG AND HARSH.

BUT WE HAVE NO CAUSE TO BELIEVE WE WERE MISTAKEN FOR NOW. ...WHICH IS TO SAY THAT OUR OPPONENT HAS GIVEN UP ON THE IDEA OF A RESOLUTION WITHIN THE YEAR.

WE'VE INVESTIGATED THOROUGHLY AND CAREFULLY, CONSIDERING THAT THE WINTER PREPARATIONS MIGHT BE JUST A FACADE TO CONCEAL SOMETHING ELSE...

TN: "SOBS OF THE VIOLINS" STANDS FOR "AUTUMN". IT'S A REFERENCE TO "CHANSON D'AUTOMNE", A WORK BY THE FRENCH POET PAUL VERLAINE (1844-1896).

WHICH TURNS OUT TO BE AN UNEXPECTED BOON FOR US, SEEING AS THE "SOBS OF THE VIOLINS" ARE DRAWING NEAR.

THEY WON'T BE PROACTIVELY ATTACKING US UNTIL SPRING, PRESUMABLY.

...WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO PREPARE THE AMOUNT OF MATERIAL WE NEED FOR OUR STRATEGY, AND THIS WITHOUT A HITCH.

THANKS TO MAJOR GARDNER'S EFFORTS...

ACTUALLY, THERE'S A MISTAKE ABOUT THAT SPECIFIC POINT THAT MIGHT PROVE A BIT TROUBLESOME ...

...WE HAVE THE 1ST SPECIAL EQUIPMENT UNIT. WELL, THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THAT UNIT IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH.

BUT THE TAKING OF SOLGRENN IS VITAL TO OUR PLANS. AT THE HEART OF THE FORCES MEANT TO CARRY OUT THE ASSAULT...

...AND MAJOR MILLS. IN OUR WHOLE ARMY, THESE TWO MEN ARE THE ONLY VIABLE OPTIONS.

THE STRATEGY FOR SUCH A CRITICAL OBJECTIVE AS THE CAPITAL WOULD BE BEST LEFT BETWEEN THE HANDS OF CAPTAIN KRUGER, COMMANDER OF THE SPECIAL ARMORED UNIT...

FILE D 6-18, PLEASE.

NOW IF YOU WOULD PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THE DATA PREPARED BEFORE YOU.

.....?

.....!

FEW PEOPLE AMONG THE GENERALS KNOW OF HIM AT ALL.

I NEVER SAW THIS MAN, NEITHER DID I HEAR OF SUCH A NAME.

RIDAS. WHO'S THIS?

A NAME FAMILIAR TO ANYONE WHO'S BEEN ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

ENSIGN SEPP SIEBERNAU.

WHY IS HE STILL AN ENSIGN?

A MOST EFFICIENT SOLDIER WITH A BRILLIANT RECORD INDEED.

HE'S DISTIN-GUISHED HIMSELF IN BATTLE MANY TIMES.

EVER SINCE THE WAR BEGAN, HE'S ALWAYS BEEN ON THE FRONT LINE.

FROM PROMOTIONS, TO RECOMMEND-ATIONS, VIA DECORATION, THE MAN HAS DECLINED EVERYTHING THE HIERARCHY WOULD OFFER HIM.

TO HIM, THE INTER-MINGLING OF LIFE AND DEATH CHARACT-ERISTIC TO THE FRONT LINES IS EVERY-THING.

MUCH LIKE SOMEONE WE KNOW. THE KIND OF GUY WHO'S JUST THAT UNBEARABLE.

HE WON'T YIELD TO ANYONE, INCLUDING HIS SUPERIORS.

HE IS THOROUGHLY UNINTER-ESTED IN SUCH THINGS AS INFLUENCE, PRESTIGE OR STATUS.

...SO. WHERE IS THAT DEVIL OF A MAN, THEN?

HUMPH.

ENEMY SOLDIERS HAVE COINED A NAME FOR THE PLACE: THE "FOREST OF DEATH"

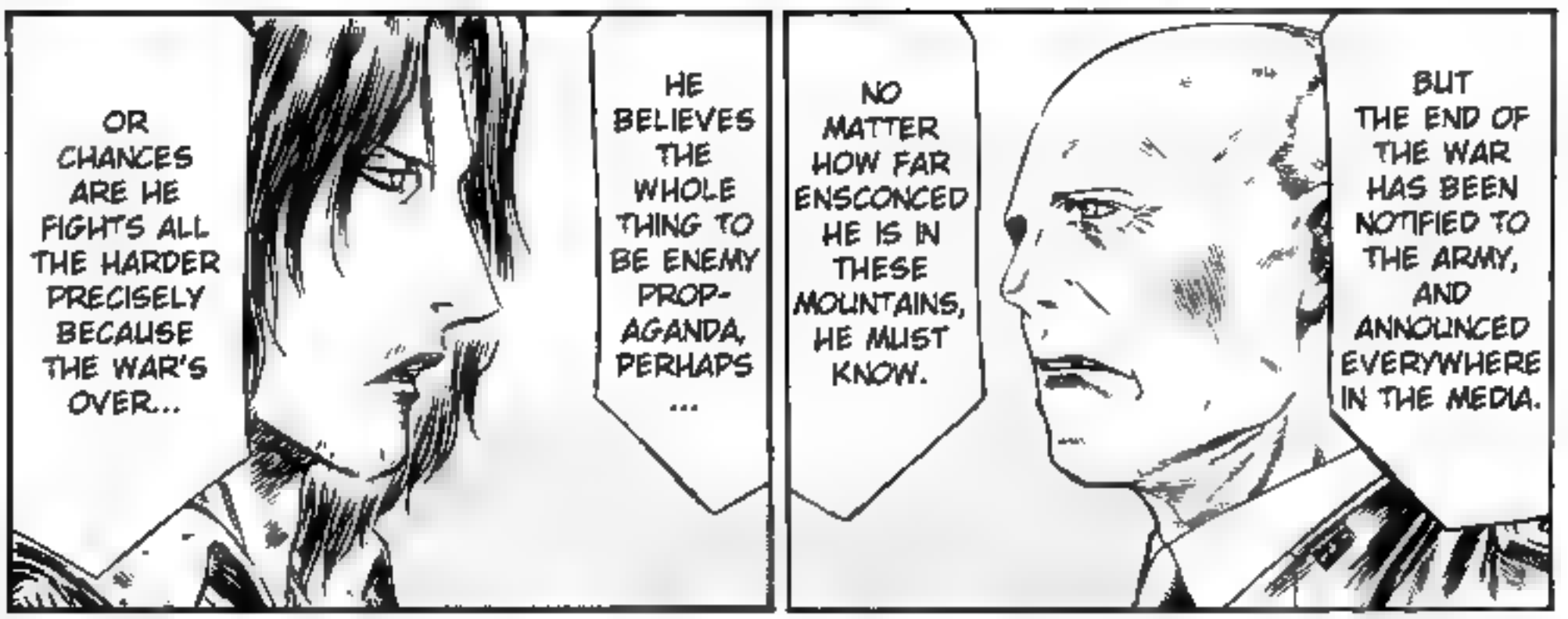
PRESUMABLY DRATTE MOUNTAIN, RANSBAHL RANGE, DUE SOUTH OF THE SALAGE PROVINCE

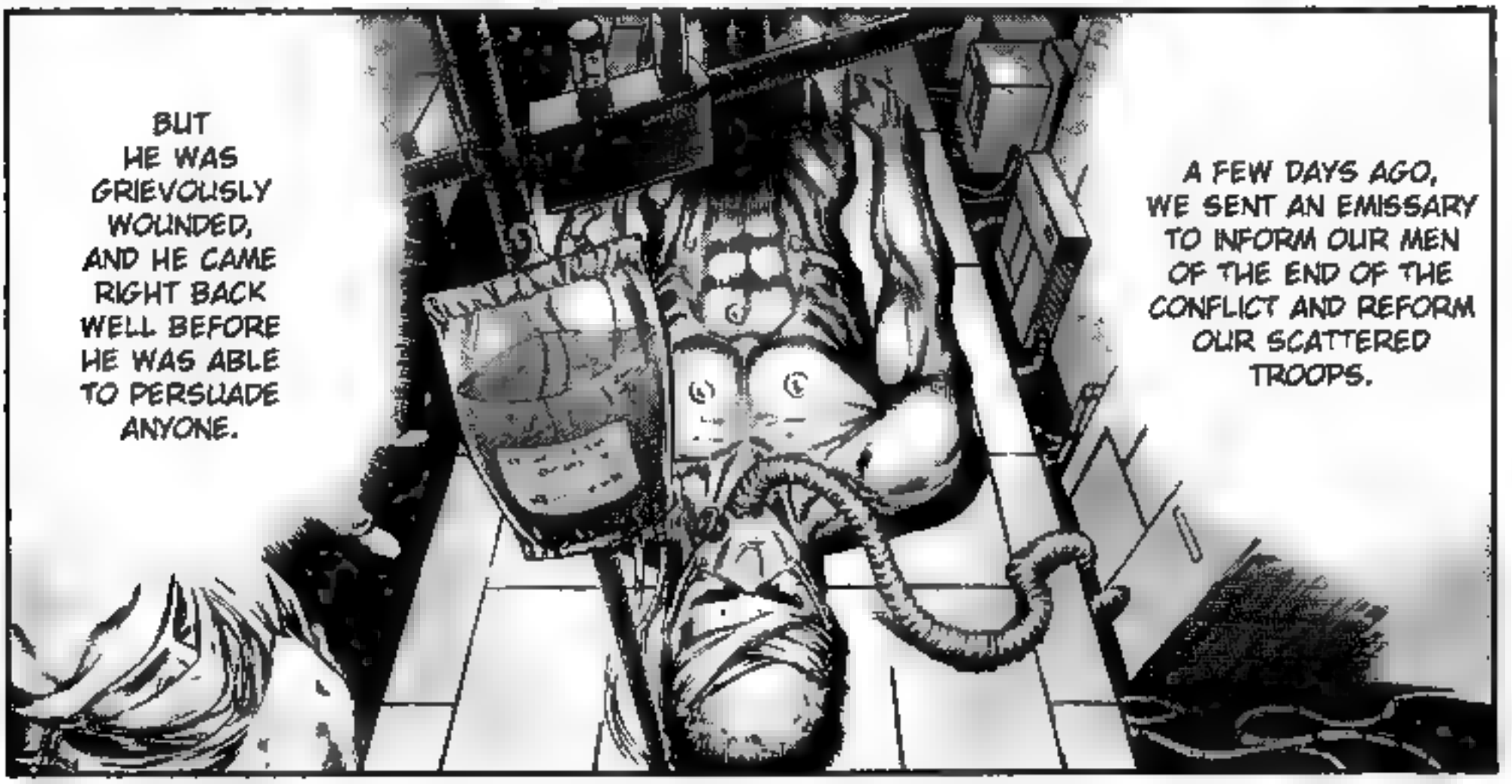
BUT WE'VE INTERCEPTED EMERGENCY NON-ENCODED RADIO TRANSMISSIONS FROM THE ENEMY CONFIRMING THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS.

YOU ARE RIGHT, OF COURSE...

A SURVIVOR OF BREHAN GEBAIR, THE WAR OF THE MOUNTAIN CHAIN ROAD TURN? BUT THAT CONFLICT ENDED WITH US CAPITULATING...

...HE'S CARRYING ON THE BATTLE, ALL ON HIS OWN
EVEN NOW THAT THE WAR HAS ENDED...


OR CHANCES ARE HE FIGHTS ALL THE HARDER PRECISELY BECAUSE THE WAR'S OVER...
HE BELIEVES THE WHOLE THING TO BE ENEMY PROP-AGANDA, PERHAPS ...
NO MATTER HOW FAR ENSCONCED HE IS IN THESE MOUNTAINS, HE MUST KNOW.
BUT THE END OF THE WAR HAS BEEN NOTIFIED TO THE ARMY, AND ANNOUNCED EVERYWHERE IN THE MEDIA.


BUT HE WAS GRIEVOUSLY WOUNDED, AND HE CAME RIGHT BACK WELL BEFORE HE WAS ABLE TO PERSUADE ANYONE.
A FEW DAYS AGO, WE SENT AN EMISSARY TO INFORM OUR MEN OF THE END OF THE CONFLICT AND REFORM OUR SCATTERED TROOPS.

THERE'S ONLY ONE MAN HE'D EVER SURRENDER TO.

...IN-DEED.

HERE'S ONE TROUBLE-SOME INDIVIDUAL ...

AND WHO WOULD THAT BE?

THERE IS SUCH A MAN?

MAJOR FABIO MASETTI.

THAT WON'T BE POSSIBLE.

HMM.

IS THERE SOME KIND OF PROBLEM?

WH... WHAT?

HE WAS KILLED IN ACTION.

IN JUNE, MAJOR MASETTI...

...TOOK PART IN THE BATTLE OF SENPIENA...

I HAPPEN TO HAVE THE ONE THING MAJOR MASETTI LEFT BEHIND.

NO NEED TO THROW OUR HANDS UP IN THE AIR JUST YET.

WE'RE TOTALLY OUT OF OPTIONS, THEN!

...ADDRESSED TO SIEBER-NAU.

A POST-HUMOUS LETTER...

BECAUSE THE MAJOR MEANT A GREAT DEAL TO HIM.

HE'S GONNA RESPOND TO IT, IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

...I AM DOUBTFUL AS TO WHETHER THIS ONE SLIP OF PAPER THE MAJOR HAS WRITTEN...

...WILL HAVE MUCH OF AN EFFECT ON SUCH A STONE-HEADED INDIVIDUAL ...

AND BROUGHT HIM UP IN THE ART OF COMBAT EVER SINCE HE WAS A CHILD

A CARRIER SOLDIER, MAJOR MASETTI TOOK AN ORPHANED SIEBERNAU UNDER HIS WING

WITH SUCH A FIGURE TO LOOK UP TO, SIEBERNAU FOUND HIMSELF WISHING TO BECOME LIKE THE MAJOR SOMEDAY

THE MAJOR WAS THE KIND OF SOLDIER BELOVED BY HIS MEN, AND PEOPLE TOOK PRIDE IN THE MERE FACT OF BEING IN HIS PRESENCE.

TOGETHER, THEY SAW MANY A BATTLE, AND THEY ACQUIRED MANY A FEAT OF ARMS TO THEIR NAMES

WHEN WAR BROKE OUT, HE ENLISTED INTO THE MAJOR'S INDEPENDENT BATTALION.

AT THE TIME, "PURPASSIAN AVALANCHE", THE LARGE-SCALE COUNTERATTACK PLAN THAT WAS TO DECIDE THE FATE OF THE PEOPLE'S ARMY OF REGIUM WAS STILL WITHIN ITS DELIBERATION STAGES. THEREFORE, THEY NEEDED TO HAVE SOMEONE PARTICULARLY COMPETENT TAKE COMMAND.

BUT SHORTLY BEFORE BREHAN GEBAR, THE MAJOR WAS TRANSFERED TO THE ARMORED BATTALION.

...AND HE LEFT HIM WITH A FEW WORDS.

THE MAJOR HAD A TALK WITH SIEBERNAU ...

OPEN YOUR EARS, SEPP... OUR ENEMY WILL COME HERE. THAT MUCH IS GUARANTEED

YES SIR!

WITH ME GONE, THE BATTALION'S INDEPENDENT STATUS WILL BE REVOKED, AND IT'LL BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARMY...

IF THEY MAKE IT THROUGH THESE MOUNTAINS, DRUGE AND BARSIA WILL BE OVER-RUN FROM BEHIND.

ENSIGN SIEBERNAU! AS THE HEAD OF THE FIRST PLATOON, COMPANY A, YOU ARE TO PROTECT YOUR ASSIGNED TERRITORY.

BUT HERE'S MY LAST ORDER, AS THE HEAD OF THE MASETTI BATALLION.

GUARD IT WITH YOUR LIFE!

YES SIR!!

SIR!

AND IT'S NOT AN ORDER...

THERE'S SOME-THING I NEED TO TELL YOU.

...ALSO, ONE MORE THING.

...SHOULD WE...

YES..?

IF WE DO...

SHOULD WE LIVE TO SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN...

...CAN I ASK YOU TO ADDRESS ME AS FATHER?

AND THIS, UNTIL THE DAY YOU COME BACK!

...TO NEVER TO GIVE UP THE BATTLE FOR OUR DEFENSE, MAJOR...

I VOW...

...PLEASE ALLOW ME...

WHEN THAT DAY COMES...

...TO ADDRESS YOU AS MY FATHER!

...YOU TAKE CARE OF EVERY-THING.

THE ANNIHILATED PLATOON PROBABLY HAS TO DO WITH HIM CONTINUING THE BATTLE EVEN AFTER WE'D SUR-RENDERED.

WITH HIS SUPERIOR OFFICER - HIS FATHER - YET TO COME BACK, HE KEEPS ABIDING BY HIS ORDERS.

BUT THIS ONE IS A MAD DOG THAT'LL PEEL ITS FANGS AT ANYONE BUT ITS MASTER.

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH A WATCH-DOG.

...JUST LIKE A FAITHFUL WATCHDOG!

...I SEE. TO DEAL WITH A MAD DOG, YOU WOULD SEND ANOTHER ONE.

...BETWEEN MAJOR MILLS' HANDS.

WHICH IS WHY I'D RATHER LEAVE THE "CASE"...

CAN'T SAY I'M HAPPY WITH THE WHOLE DOG ANALOGY.

...NO ONE IS QUALIFIED FOR THIS PARTICULAR ASSIGNMENT.

WELL... ASIDE FROM MAJOR MILLS...

I'LL DO IT, THEN.

JUST HAND HIM THE LETTER, THAT WILL SUFFICE.

HUMPH! NOT LIKE A POOR TALKER SUCH AS YOU COULD HAVE DONE SO ANYWAY.

I WON'T BE INCLINED TO PEACEFUL NEGOTIAT-IONS.

I NEED TO WARN YOU, THOUGH.

THERE'S GONNA BE A FIGHT. THAT MUCH IS CERTAIN.

THE MAN WON'T TAKE THE NEWS SO EASILY, HOWEVER

I'LL ADD A SINGLE CONDITION.

...YOU'RE A SPECIAL CASE, HOWEVER.

YOU AND HIM HAVE MUCH IN COMMON...

I PRESUME THAT YOU CAN ONLY UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER THROUGH BATTLE.

BRING THE ENSIGN SIEBERNAU BACK ALIVE.

WHO KNOWS... I MIGHT SLIP UP OR SOME-THING...

PFEH! I CAN'T PROMISE ANYTHING.

...HE STOOD OUT AS THE LIKELIEST CANDIDATE OF ALL FOR THE POST OF CAPTAIN.

BUT WHEN THE JACKALS UNIT WAS FORMED...

I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO KNOW THIS...

IF YOU MAKE LIGHT OF HIM YOU WON'T LIVE TO REGRET IT.

...HE REFUSED TO JOIN THE TEAM... THIS IS THE KIND OF MAN YOU'LL BE DEALING WITH.

BUT IN ORDER TO ABIDE BY MAJOR MASETTI'S COMMAND...

ACCORDING TO A TELEGRAM, HE HAS AN SAA AT HIS DISPOSAL.

IN ADDITION, HE WON'T BE FIGHTING UNPROTECTED...

OR ELSE, HE LOOTS ENEMY SAA FOR THEIR BATTERIES.

FOR THE POWER HE PROBABLY GENERATES HIS OWN EVERGY OUT OF SOME REPURPOSED COMBUSTIBLE TURBINE.

HOW ABOUT POWER, FIREARMS AN AMMUNITION?

ISOLATED IN THE MOUNTAINS LIKE HE IS, HOW CAN HE OPERATE AN SAA AT ALL?

HE'LL FULFILL HIS MISSION UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES... MAJOR MASETTI TAUGHT HIM AS MUCH.

HE PROBABLY DOESN'T HAVE MUCH IN THE WAY OF FIREPOWER, BUT HE'S A GUERRILLA PRODIGY.

OUR ONLY CHOICE IN THE MATTER IS TO RELY ON MAJOR MILLS.

I SEE... THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT THE SITUATION.

WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU!

VERY WELL.

EXACTLY.

...NO WAY AROUND IT, THEN.

NOT BAD. A BIT SLOW IN THE REACTION TIME DEPARTMENT, THOUGH.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I EVEN LIGHTENED THE THING TO BETTER SUIT YOU, YOU KNOW!

DON'T BE SO FUSSY! THE MK-54 IS BEING FULLY CUSTOMIZED. YOU CAN'T HAVE IT.

I HELPED!

I MUST ADMIT IT'S BETTER THAN THE STANDARD ISSUE.

SHE LEARNS PRETTY FAST FOR A KID.

HEE HEE HEE.

YEP. SHE DID HELP. WITH DATA IMPLEMENTATION.

HUHU-
HUHU!

THERE'S A LOT MORE TO YOU THAN MEETS THE EYE.

DID YOU SAY SOME-THING?!

HM?!

SHE'S GOT A ROTTEN PERSON-ALITY, THOUGH...

RIGHT ON!

I'M HAPPY I FOUND SUCH A COMPETENT ASSISTANT. THAT'S WHAT I SAID.

THESE CLOTHES DON'T SUIT YOU AT ALL.

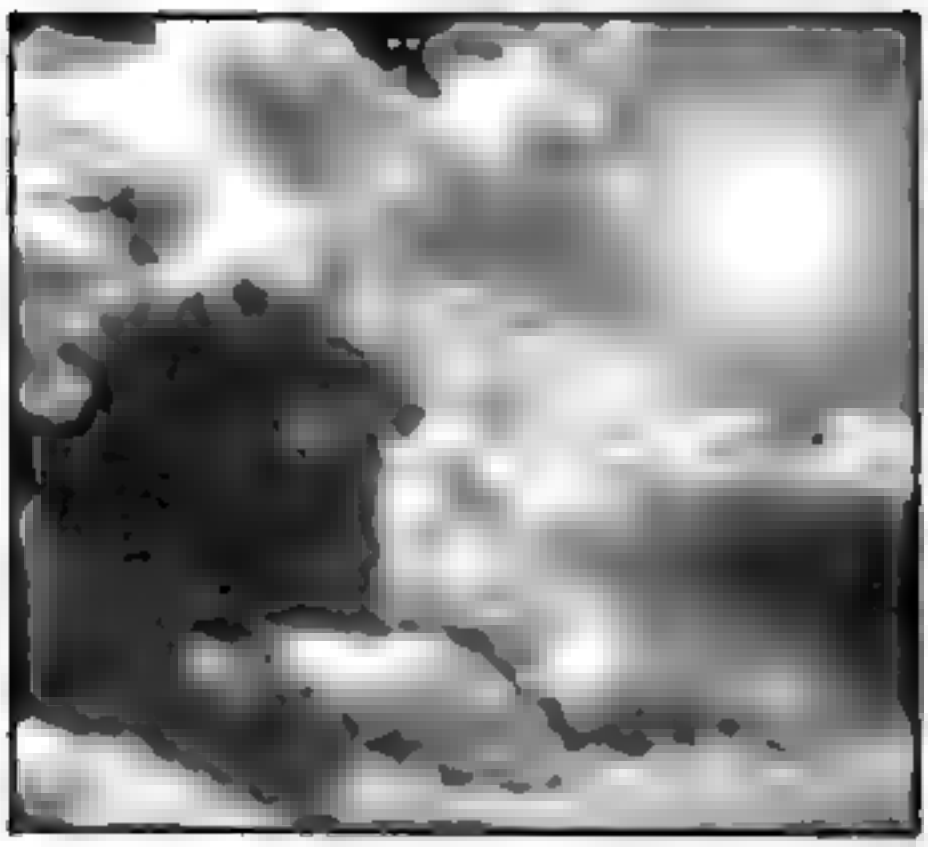
THAT SAID...

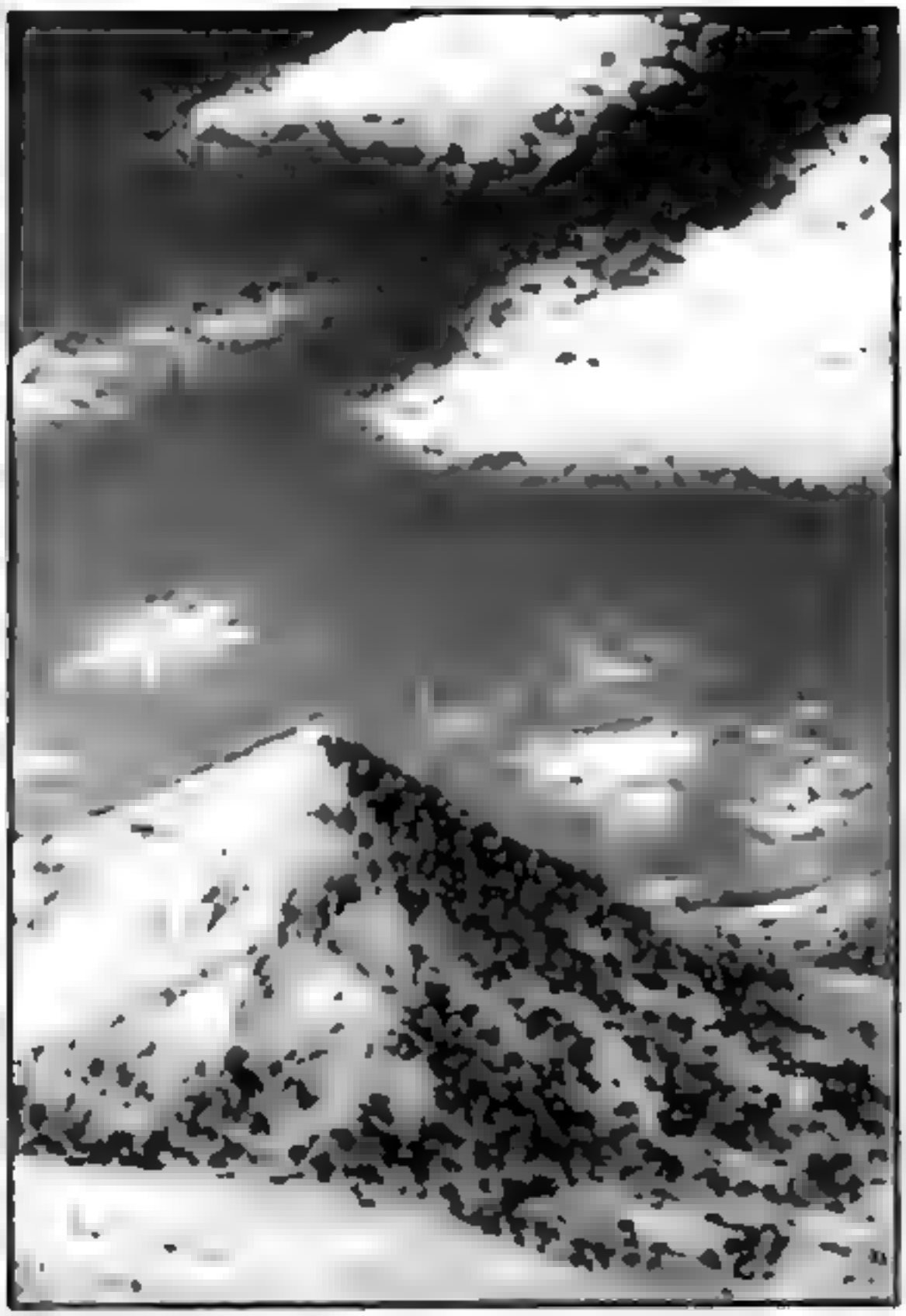
WHAT IS IT?

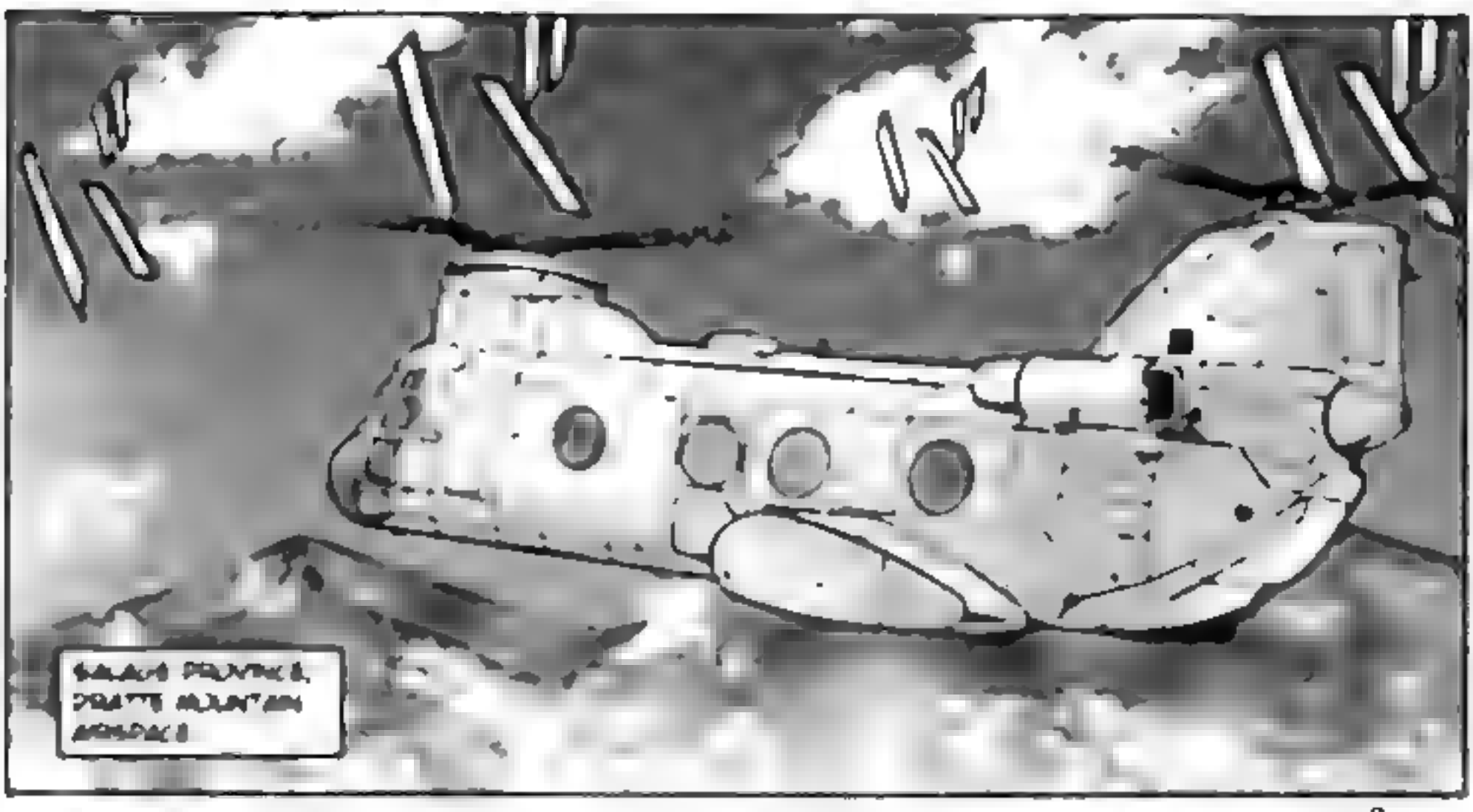
YOU JUST RUSH TO THE NEXT BATTLE-GROUND, OR GRAVE-YARD, OR WHAT-EVER!

HEH! THAT'S THE PLAN.

HUMPH! JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!



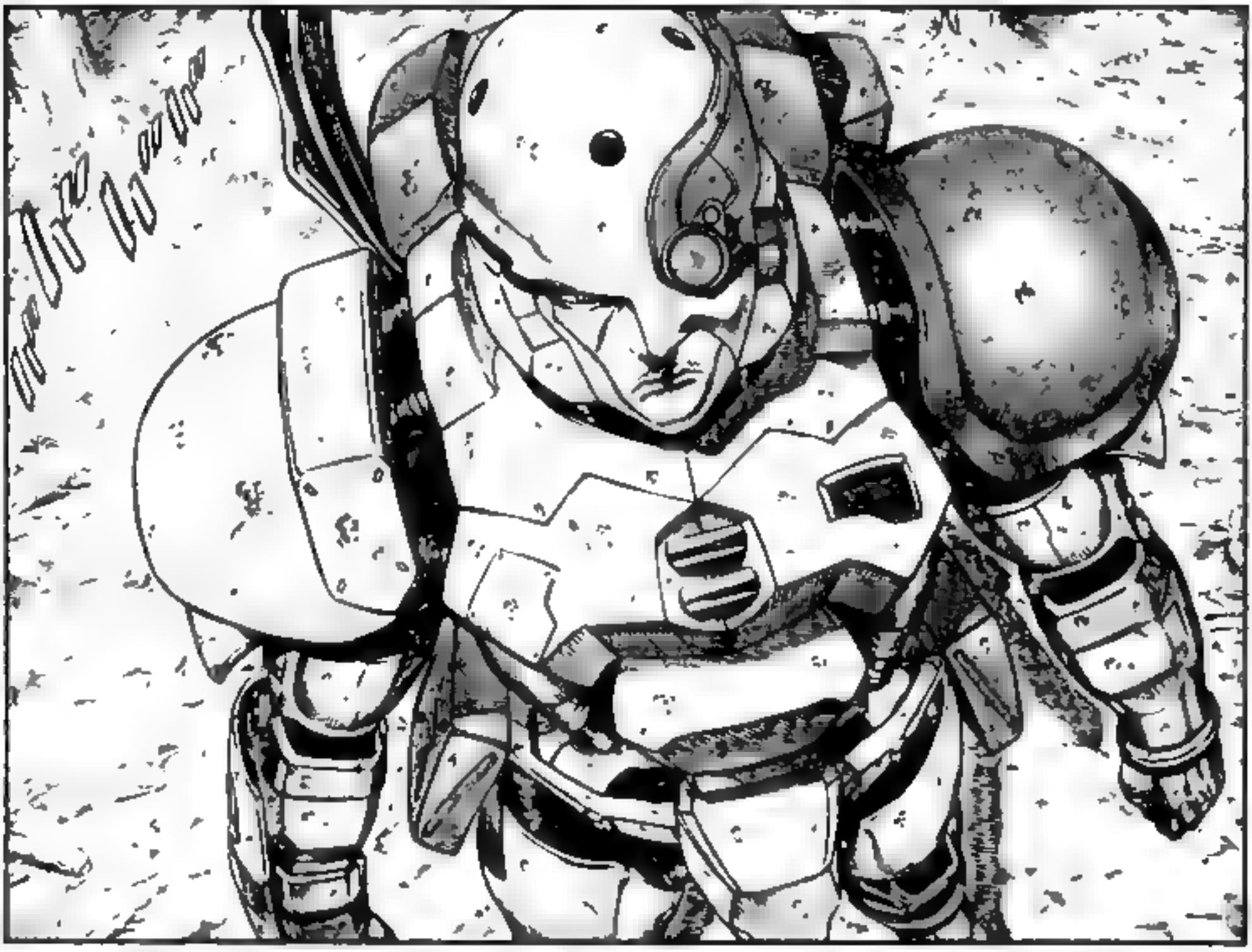



SALAR PEAK,
DUTTS MOUNTAIN
ARMENIA

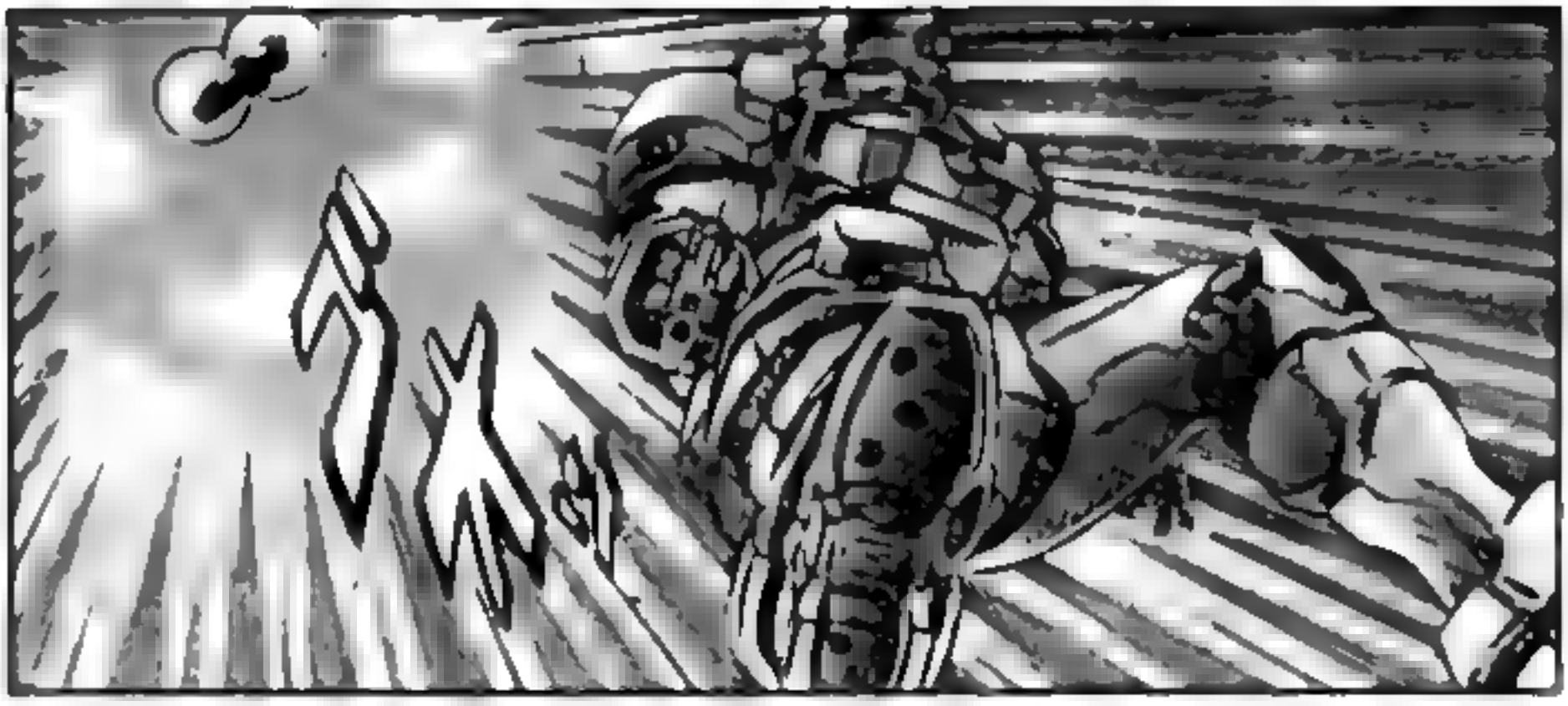
FLYING AT LOW ALTITUDE FOR EXTENDED PERIODS OF TIME IS BAD FOR MY HEART! GO EASY ON ME, WILL YA.

MAKE SURE TO WRAP THIS UP BEFORE THE DRAGNOVIAN LEADER GETS THERE.

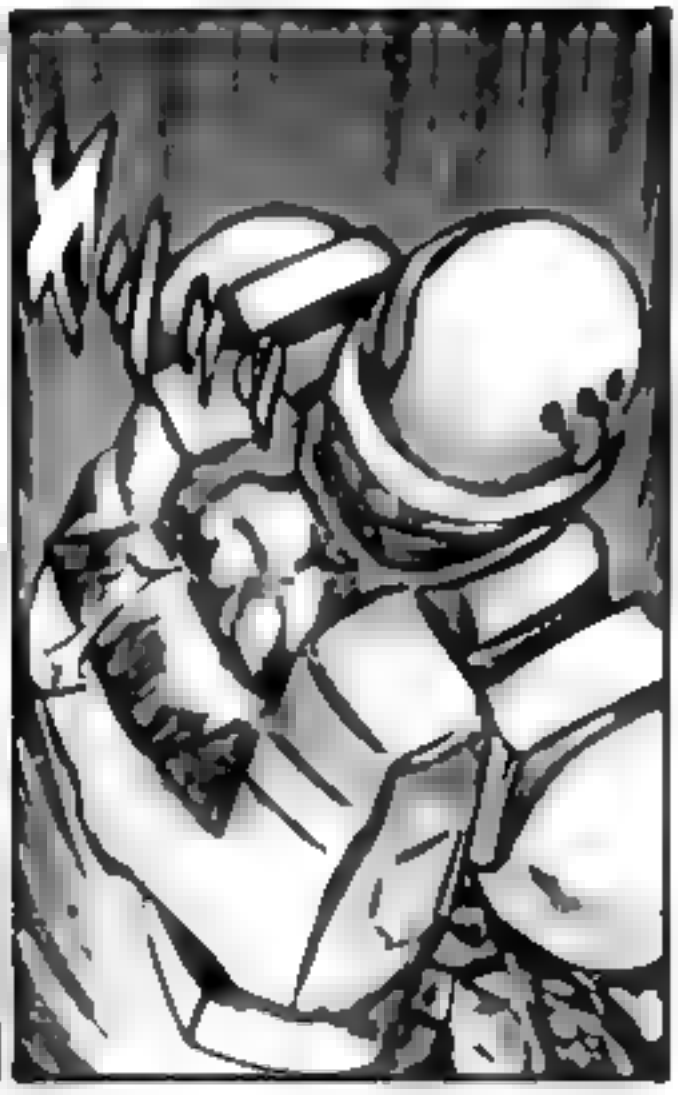
MAJOR MILLS! WE'LL ARRIVE TO THE DROPPING ZONE SHORTLY!

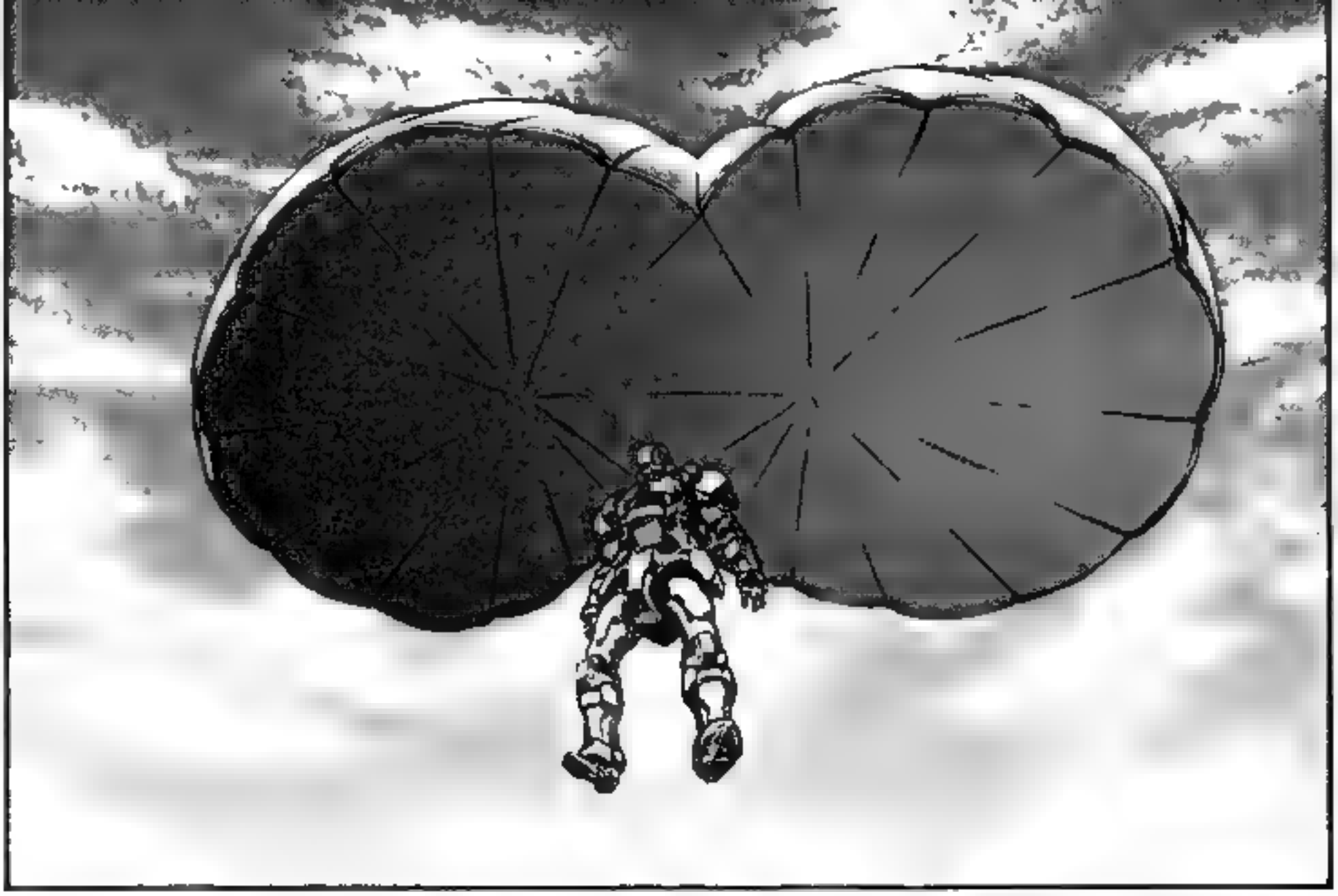


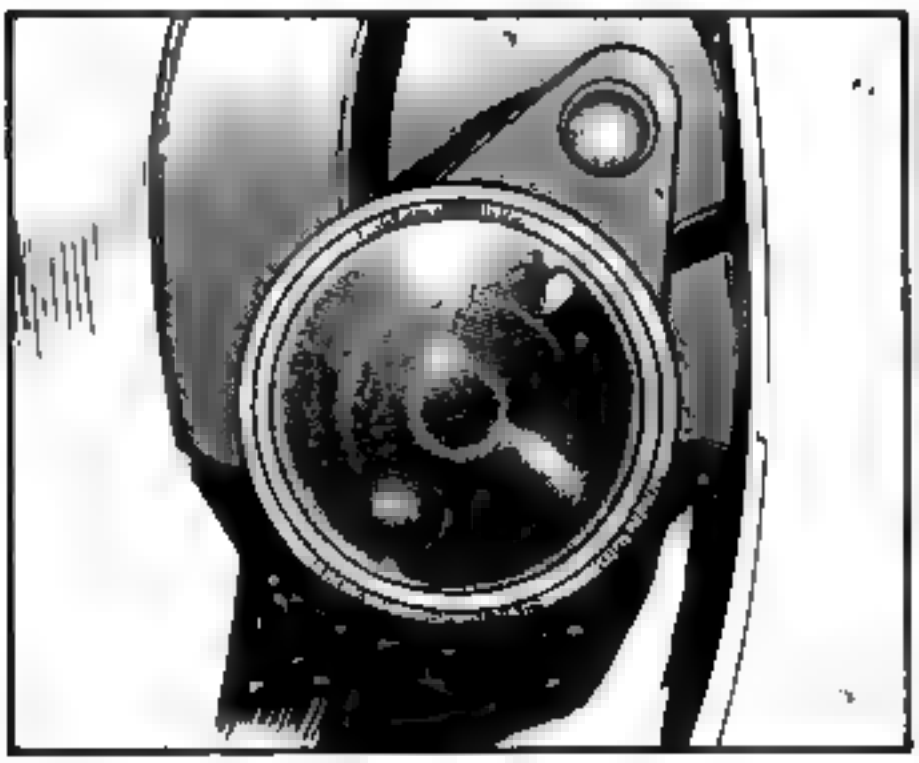
GO!
3 - 2 - 1
...!

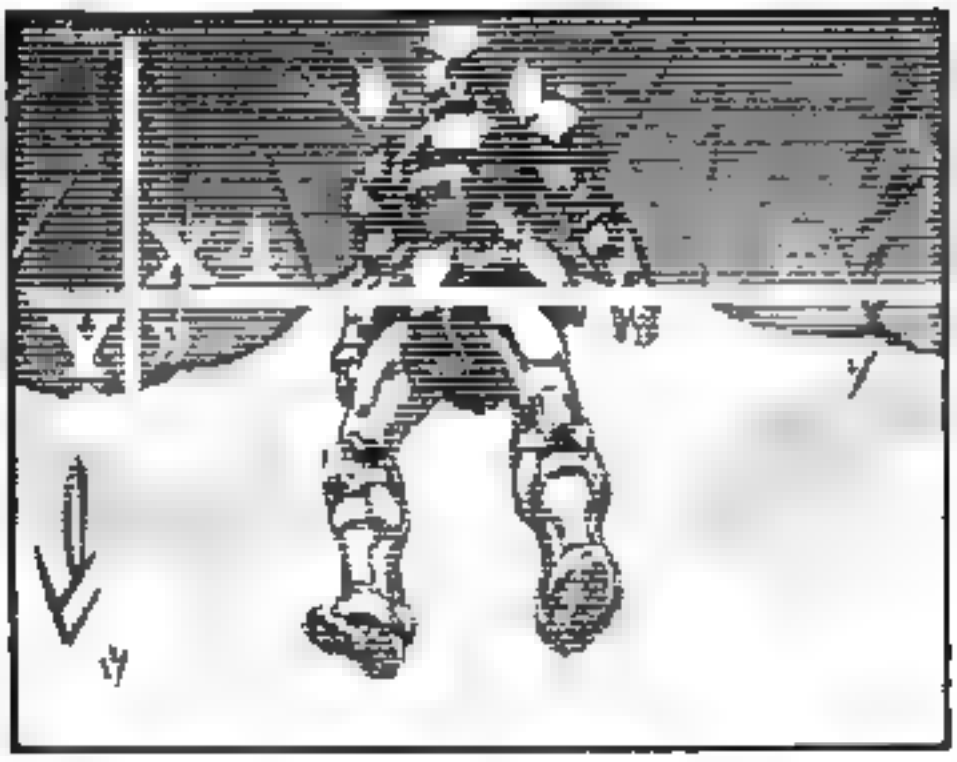


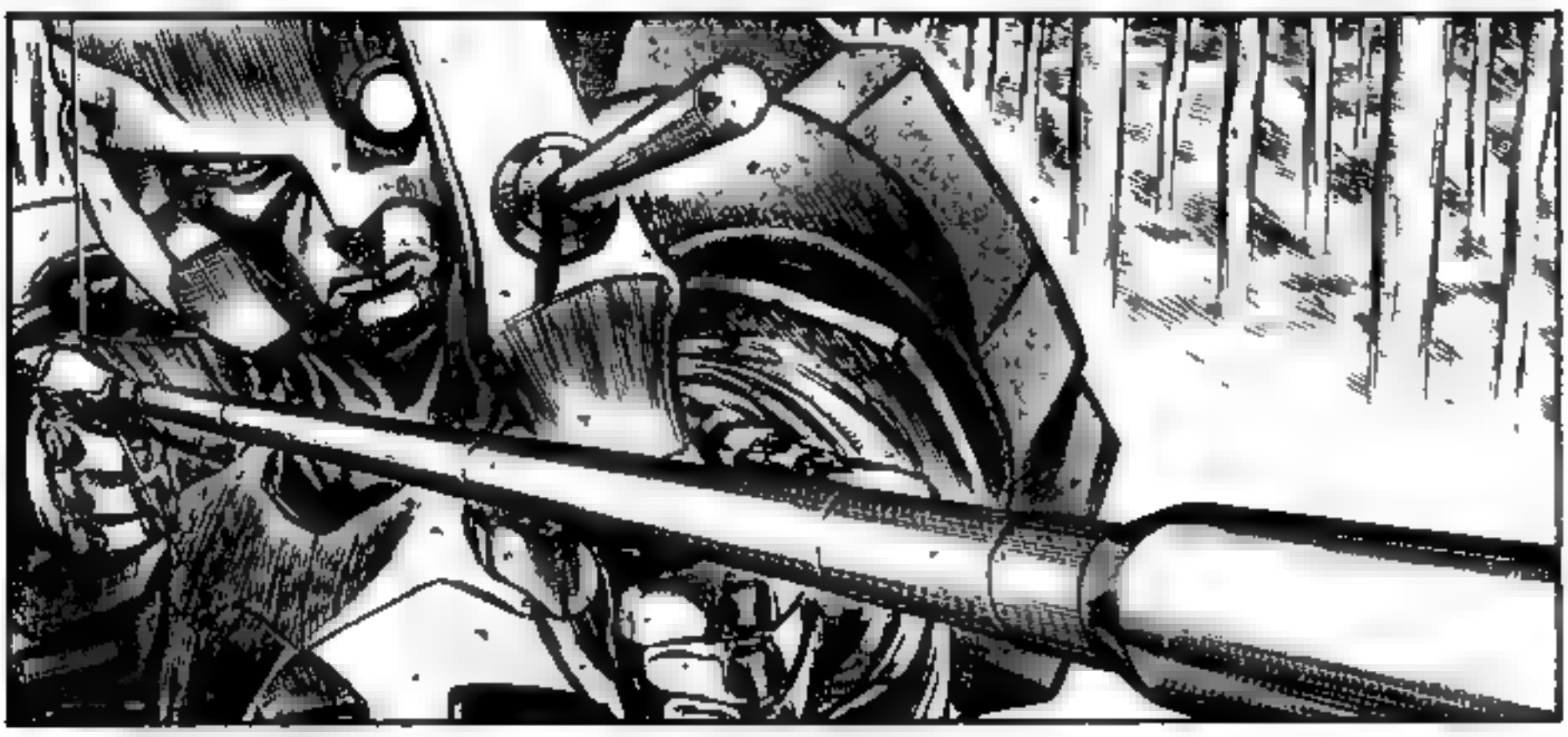
NGH!



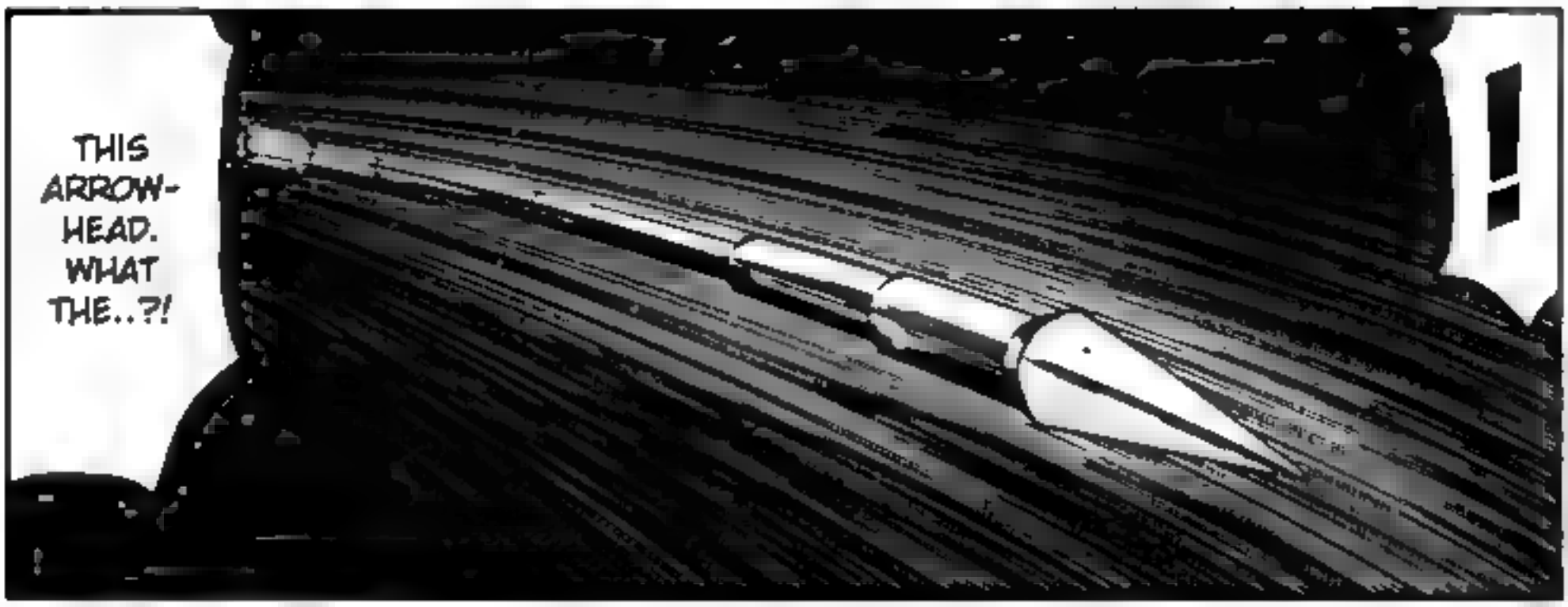




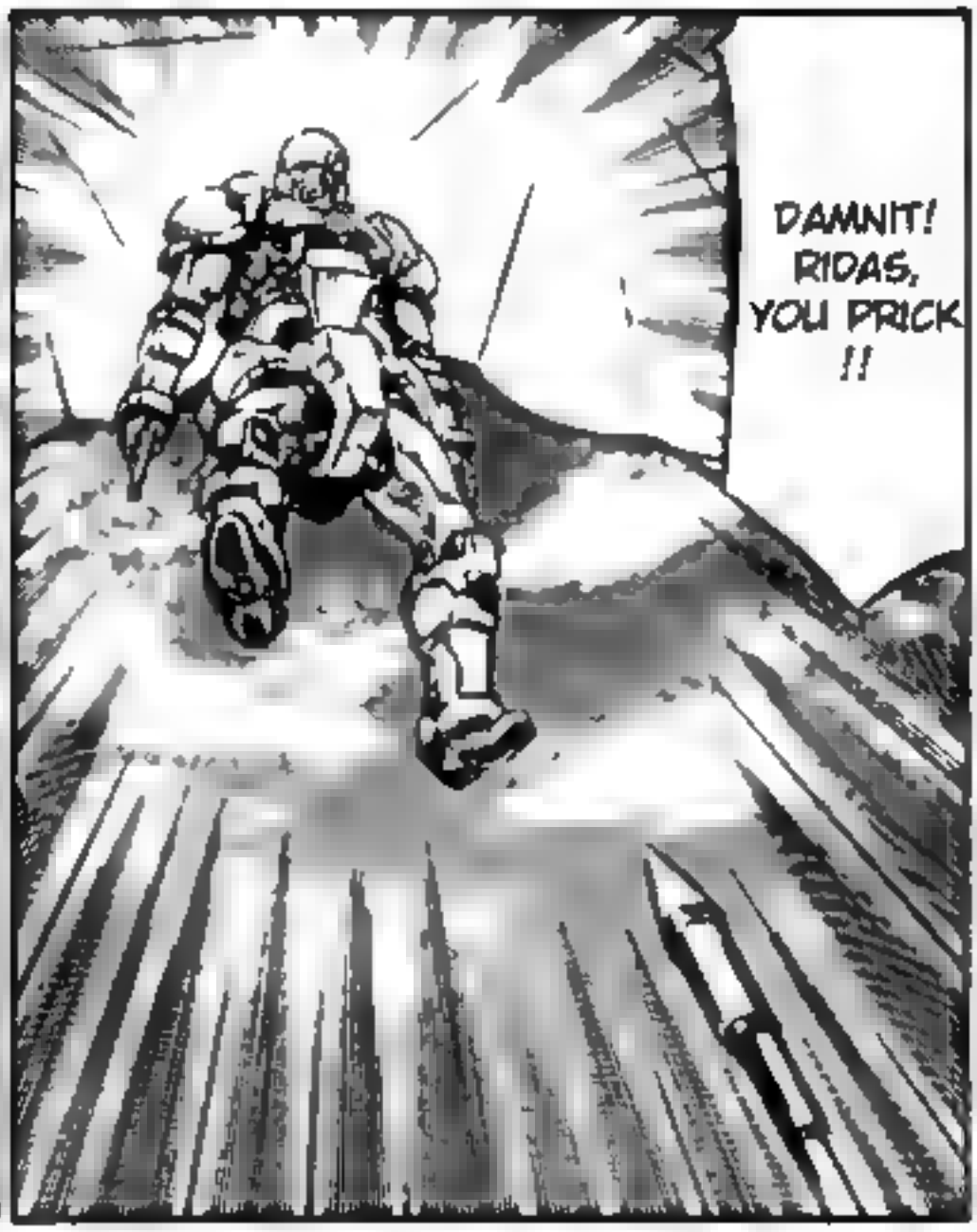


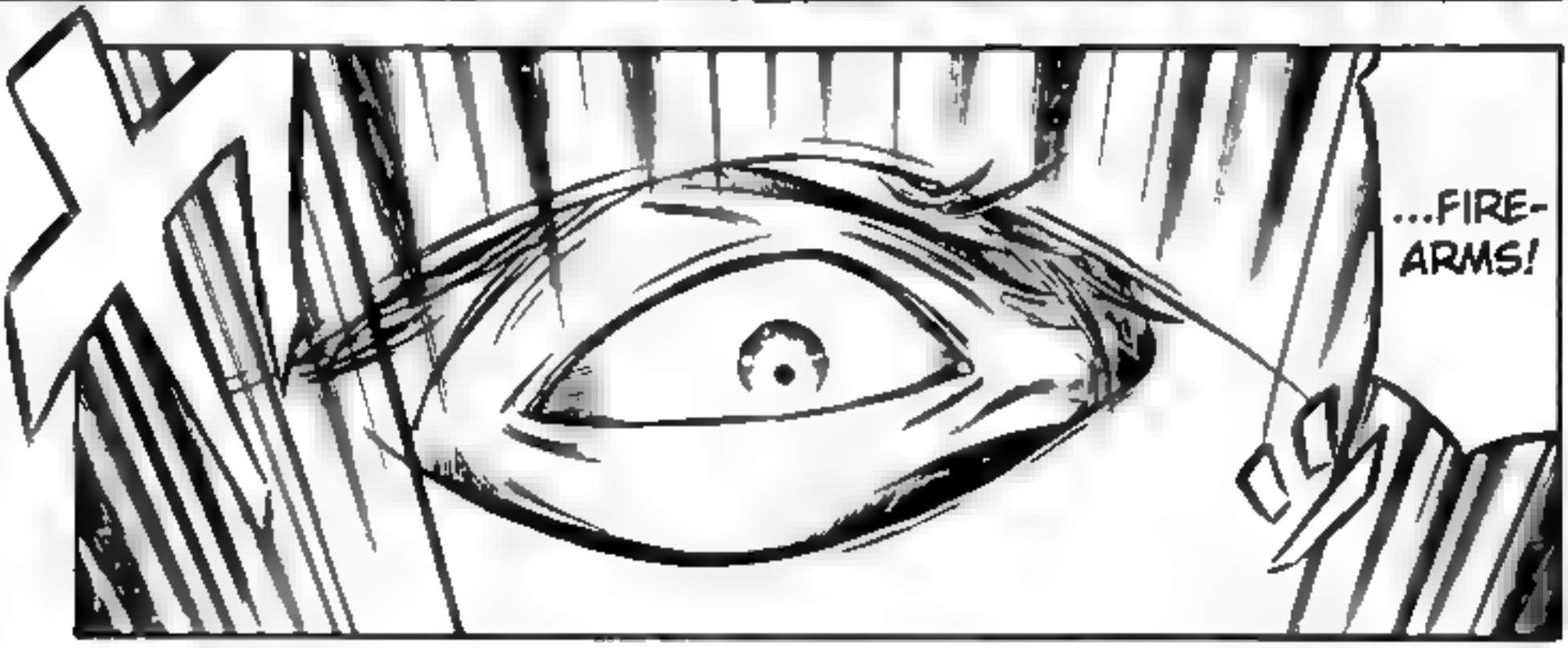


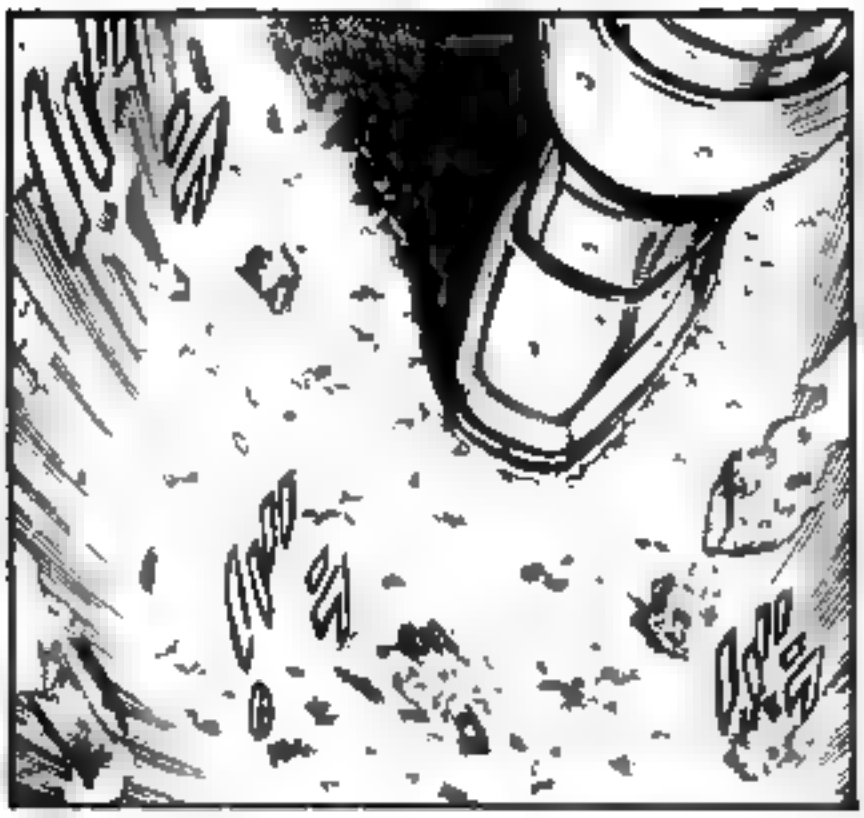
TSK?!

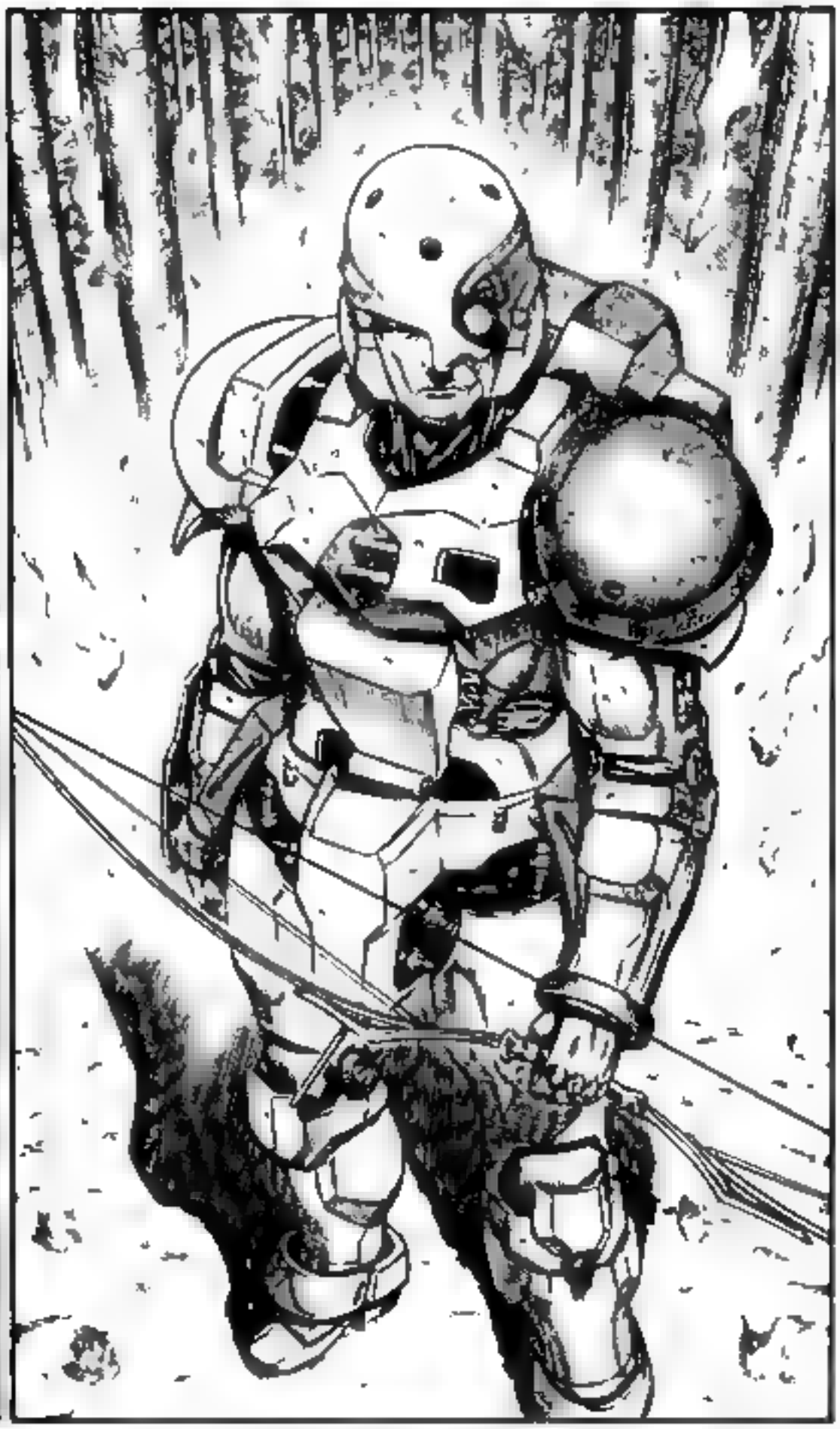

THIS ARROW-HEAD. WHAT THE..?!
!

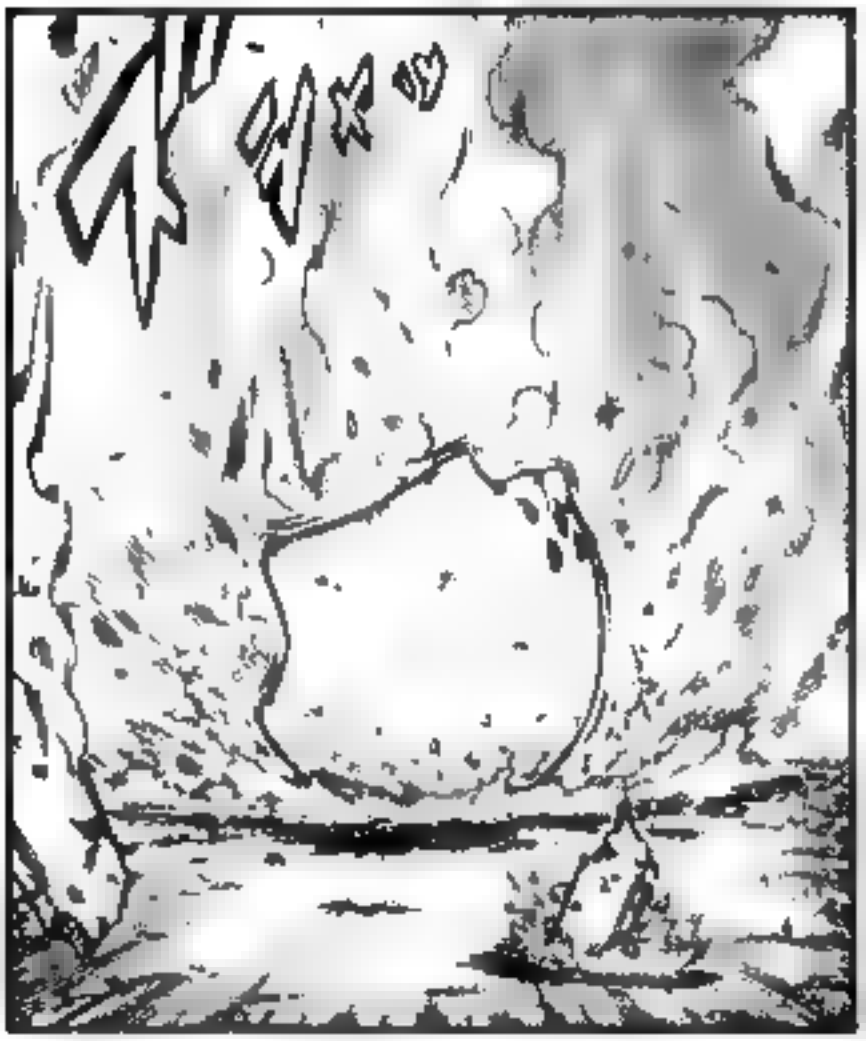
I THOUGHT YOU SAID HE WOULDN'T HAVE ANY...

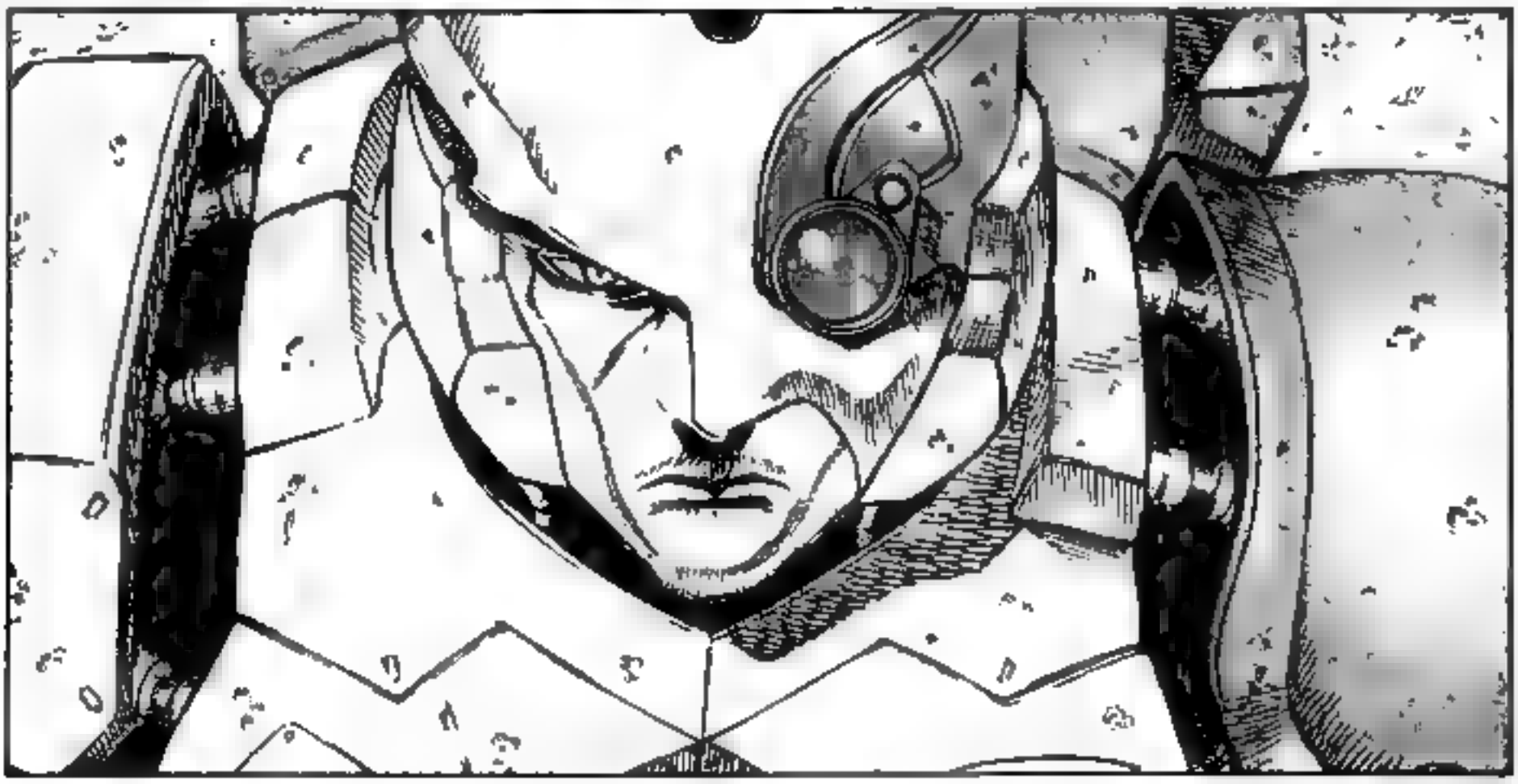

DAMNIT! RIDAS, YOU PRICK !!


...FIRE-ARMS!

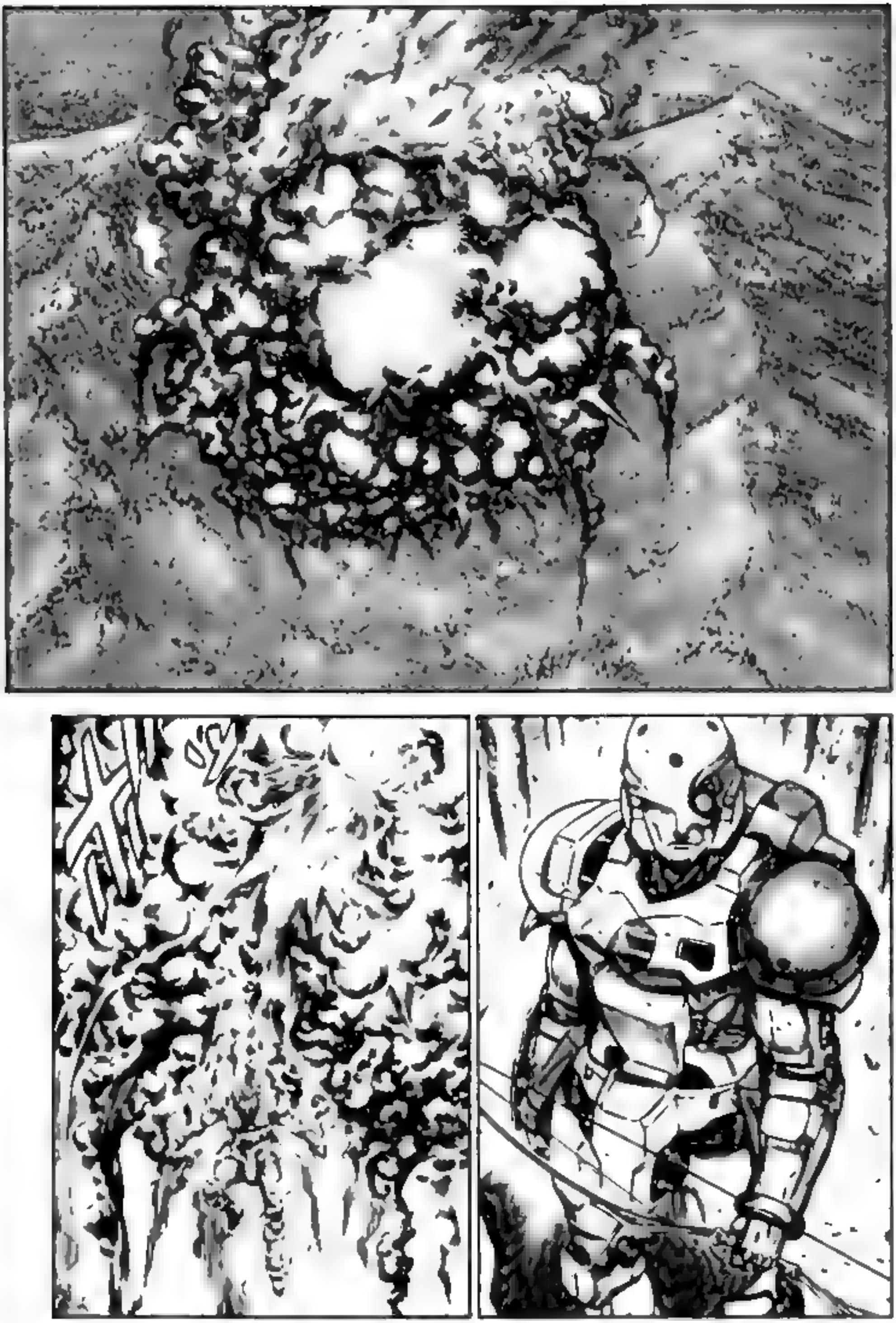








54
S.A.A SPECIAL FORCE+JACKAL



#31 GHOST YARD

...AND I WOULD'VE BEEN IN TROUBLE

ONE SECOND LATER...

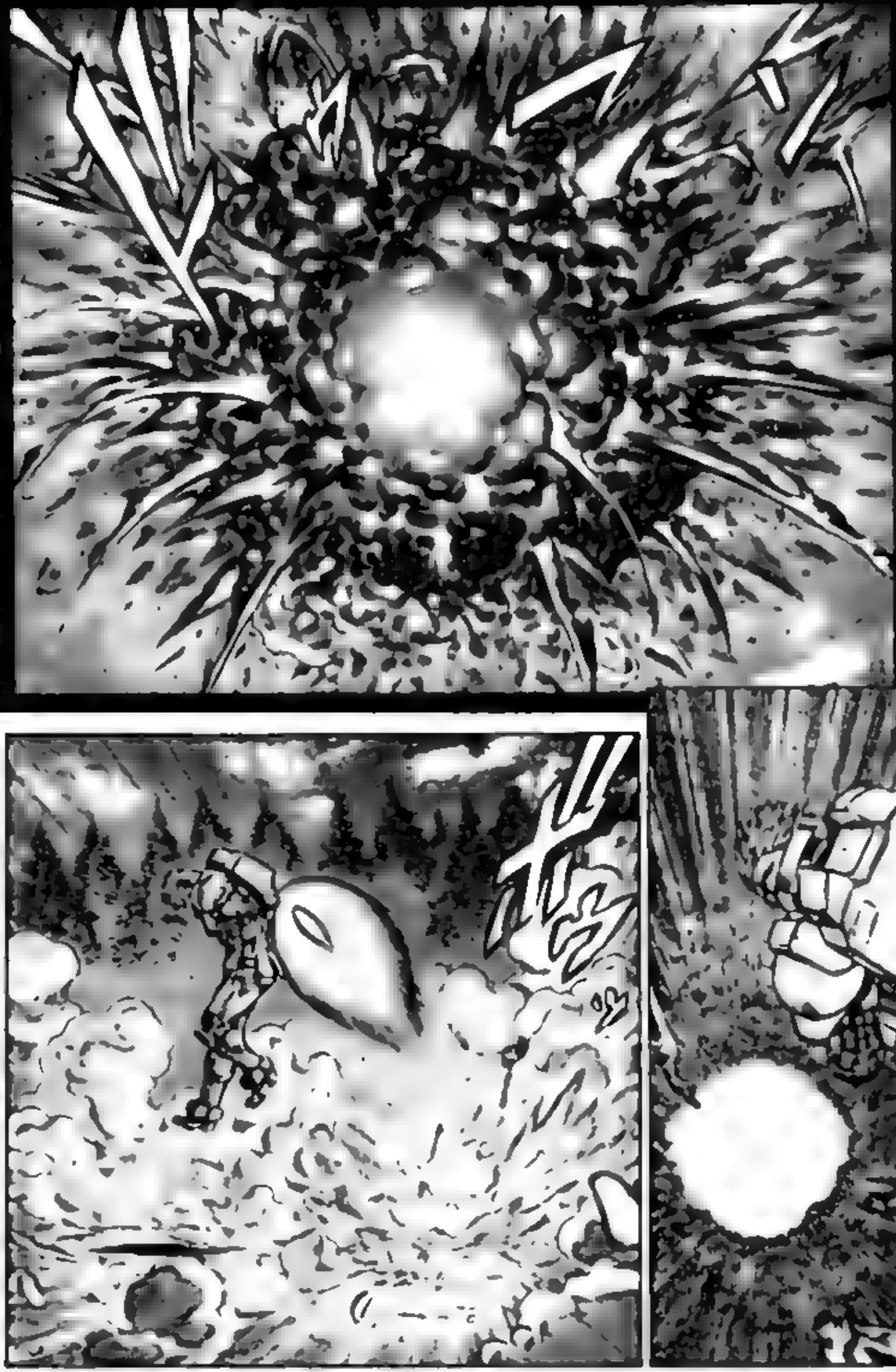
THIS ARROW-HEAD. WHAT THE..?!

!

I THOUGHT YOU SAID HE WOULDN'T HAVE ANY ..

DAMNIT! RIDAS, YOU PRICK!!

...FIRE-ARMS!



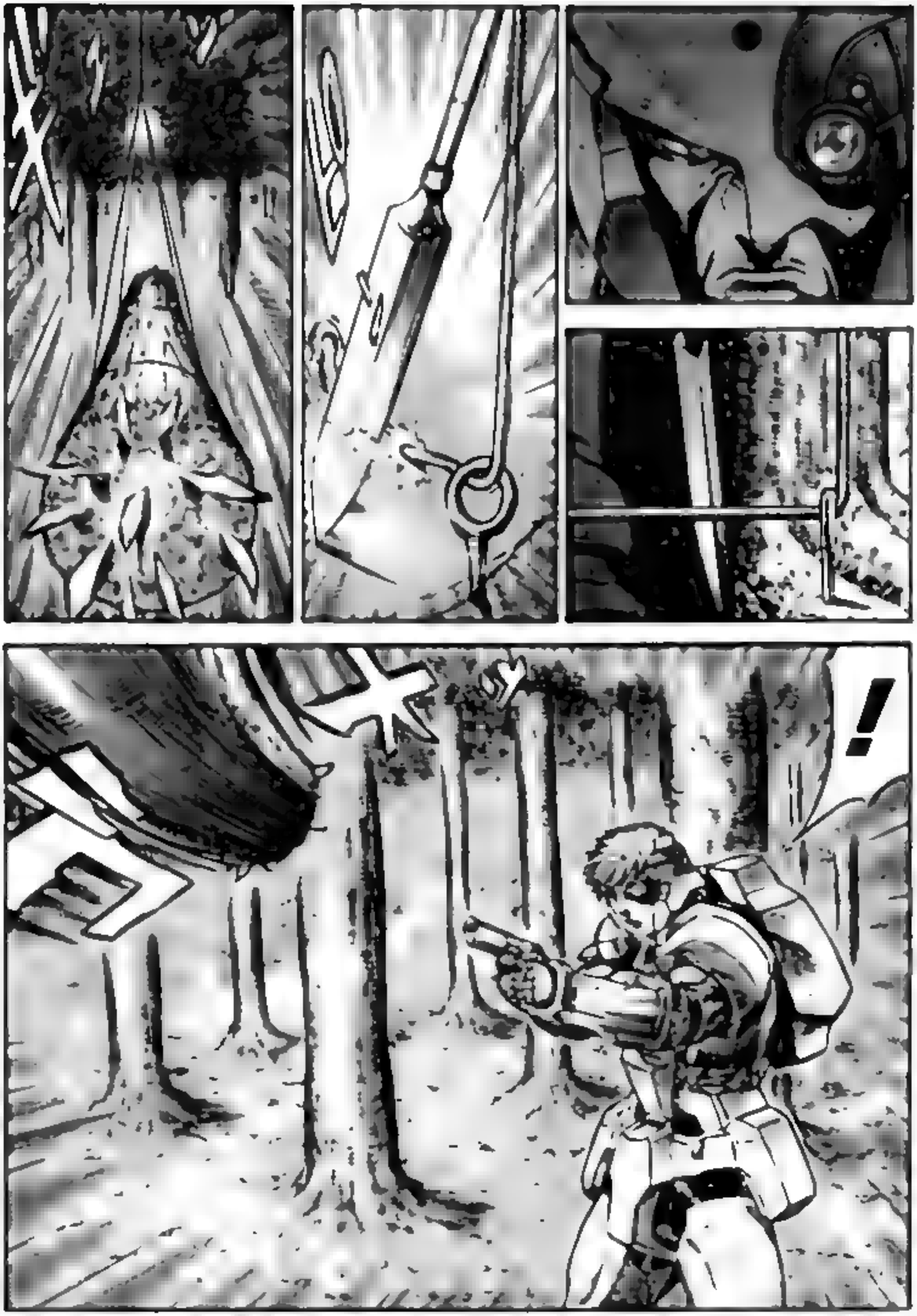
MUCH MORE SO THAN I IMAGINED

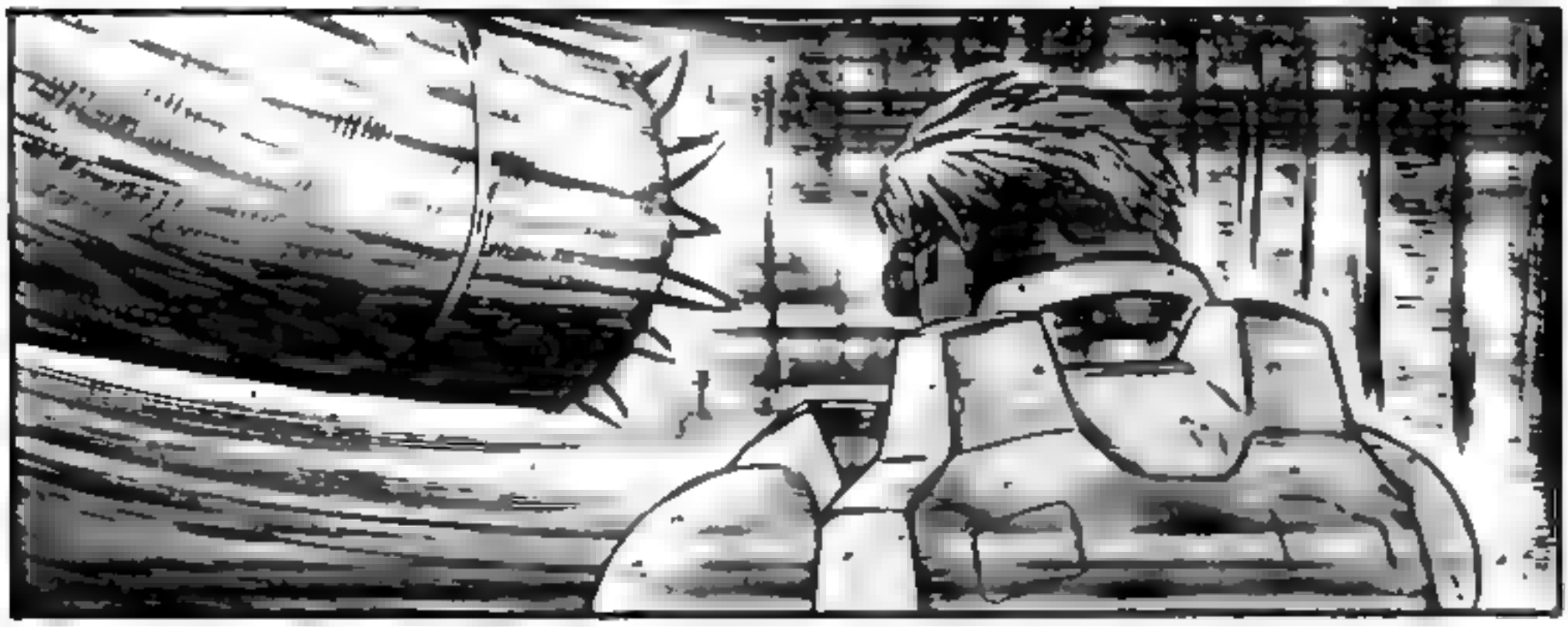
THIS GUY IS BAD NEWS

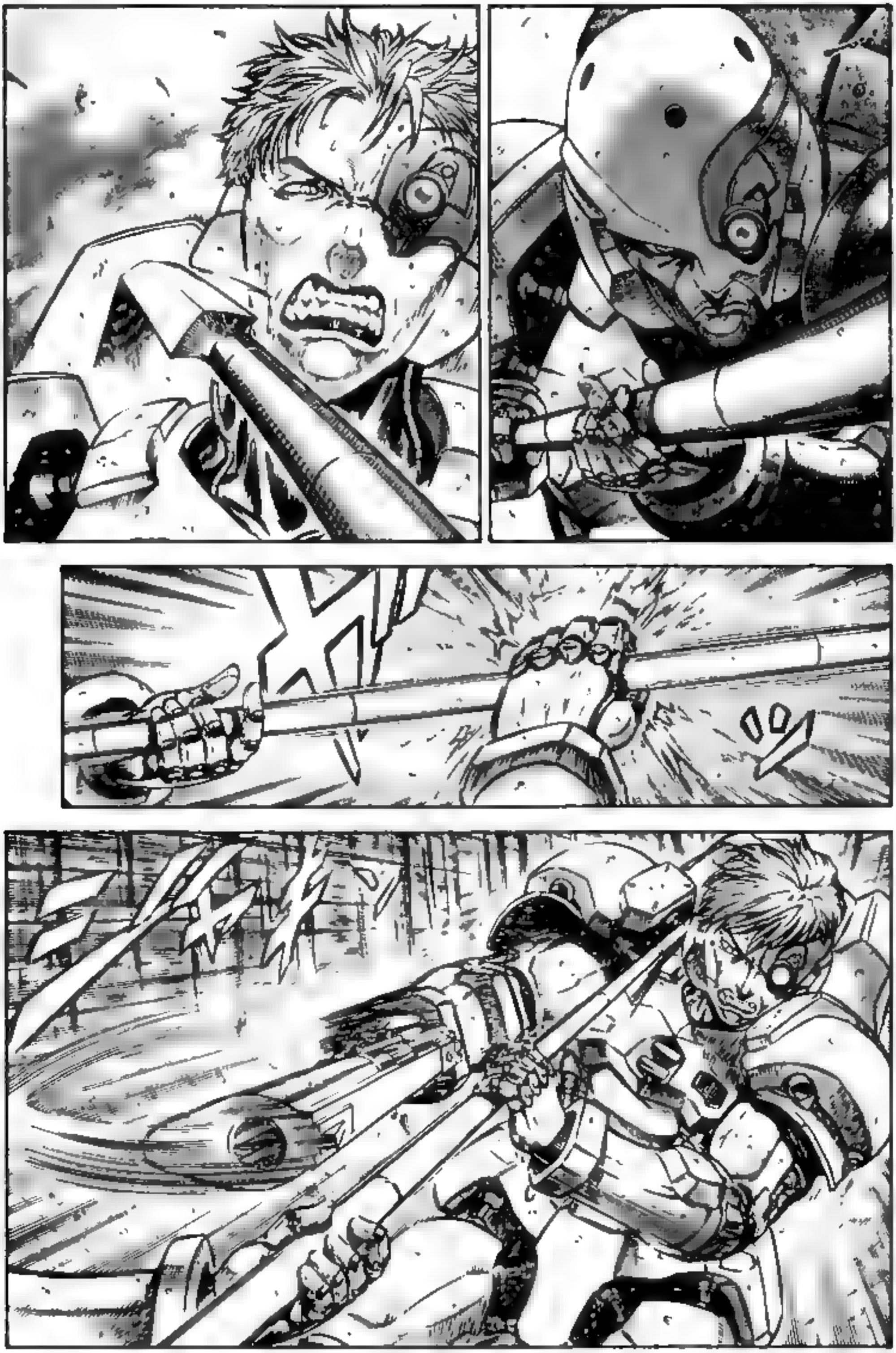
NO FIRING SOUND EITHER

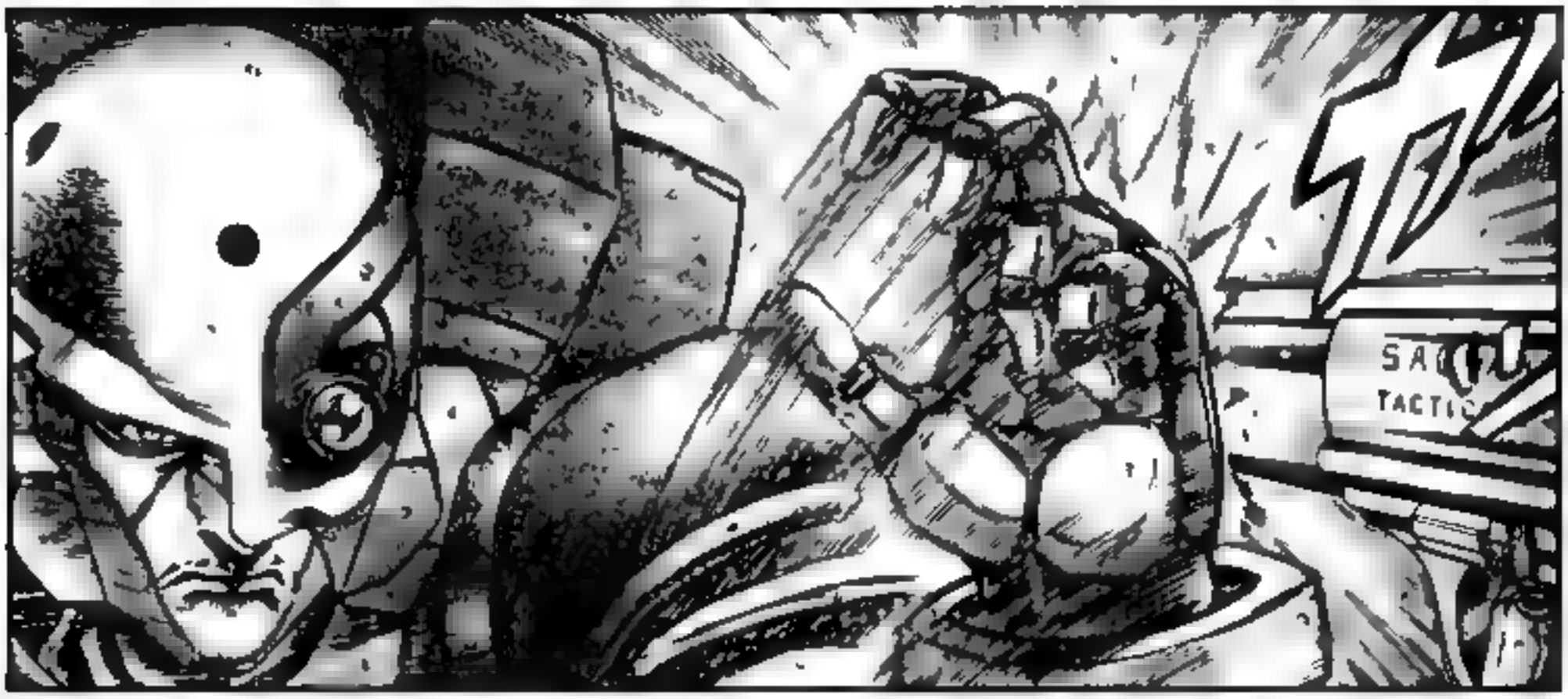
NO VISIBLE POINT OF CONFLAG-RATION

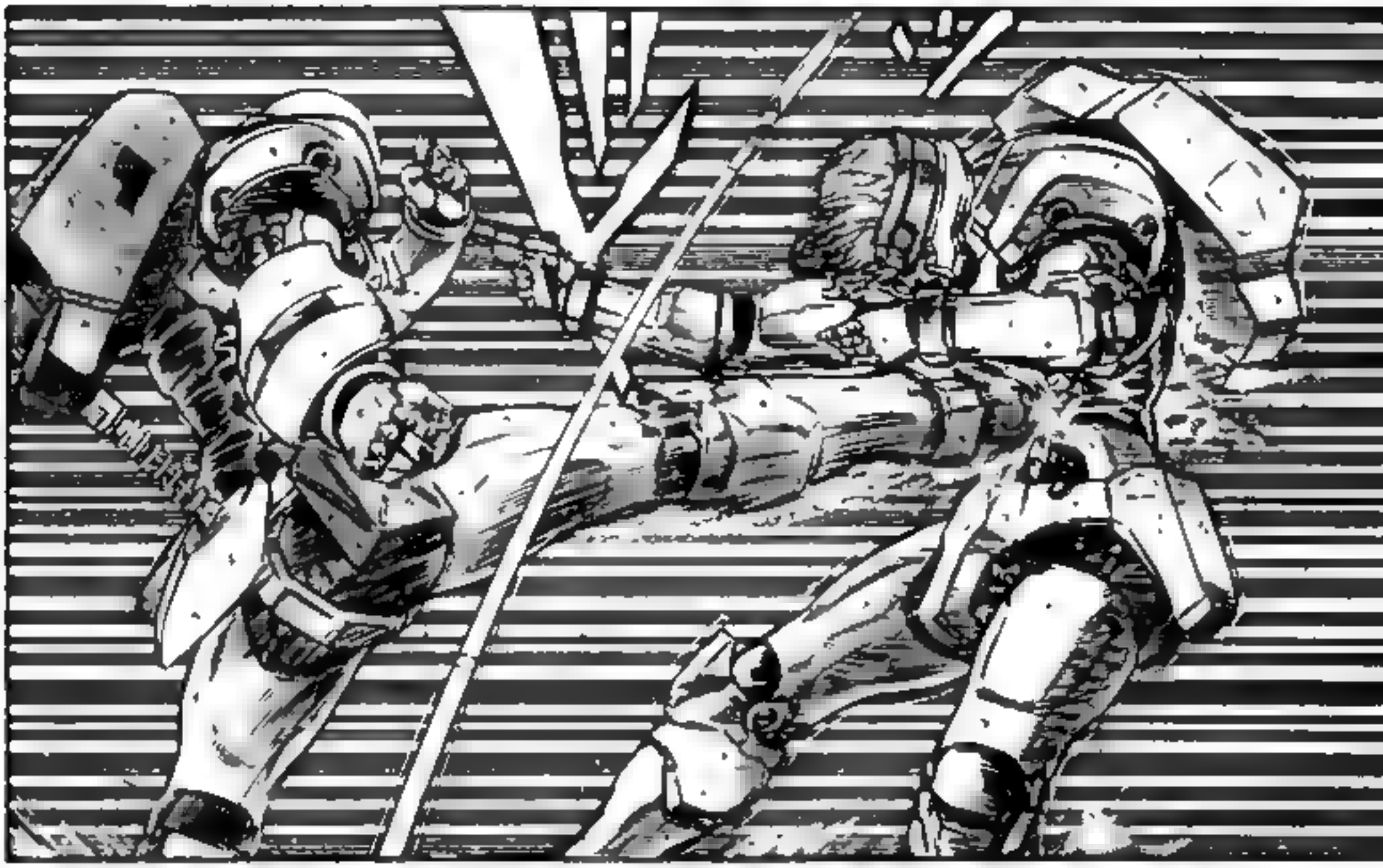
NO TRACES OF HIS PRESENCE

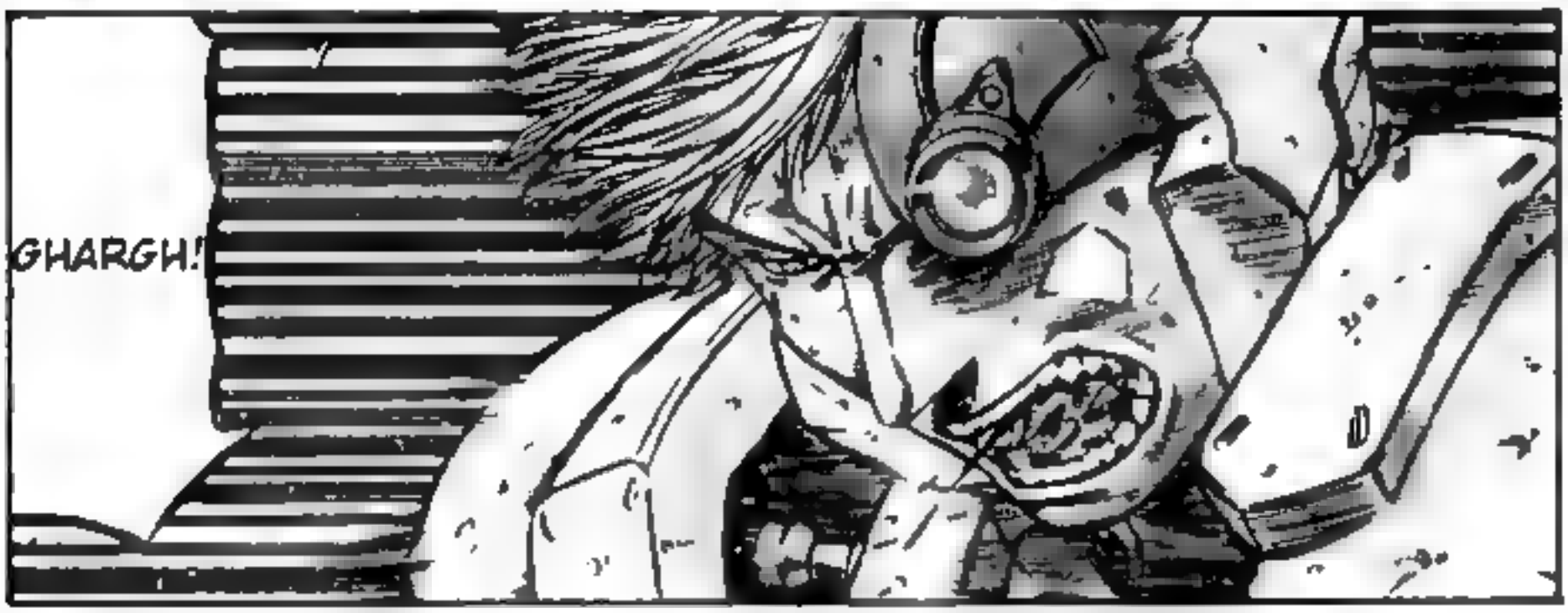




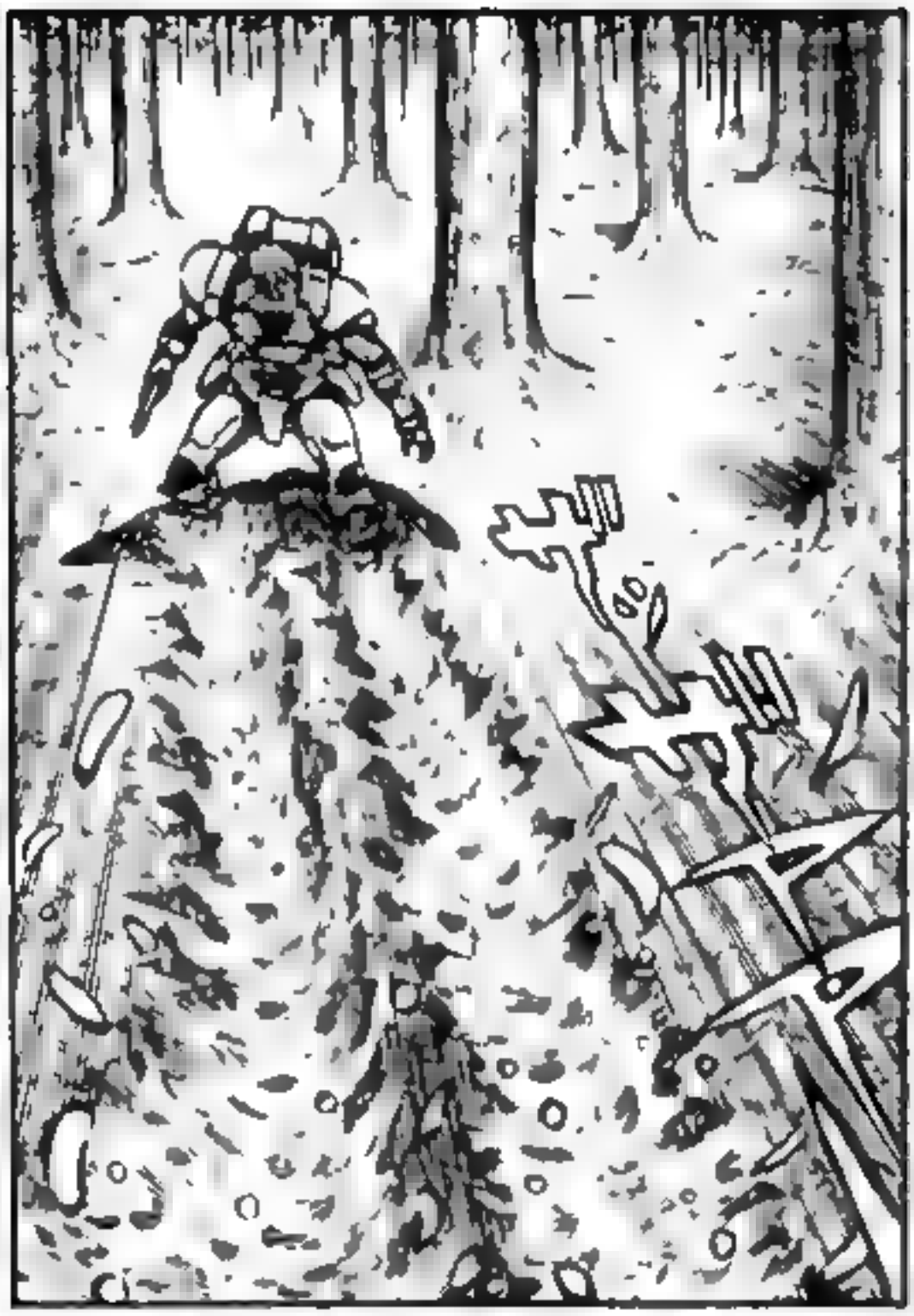


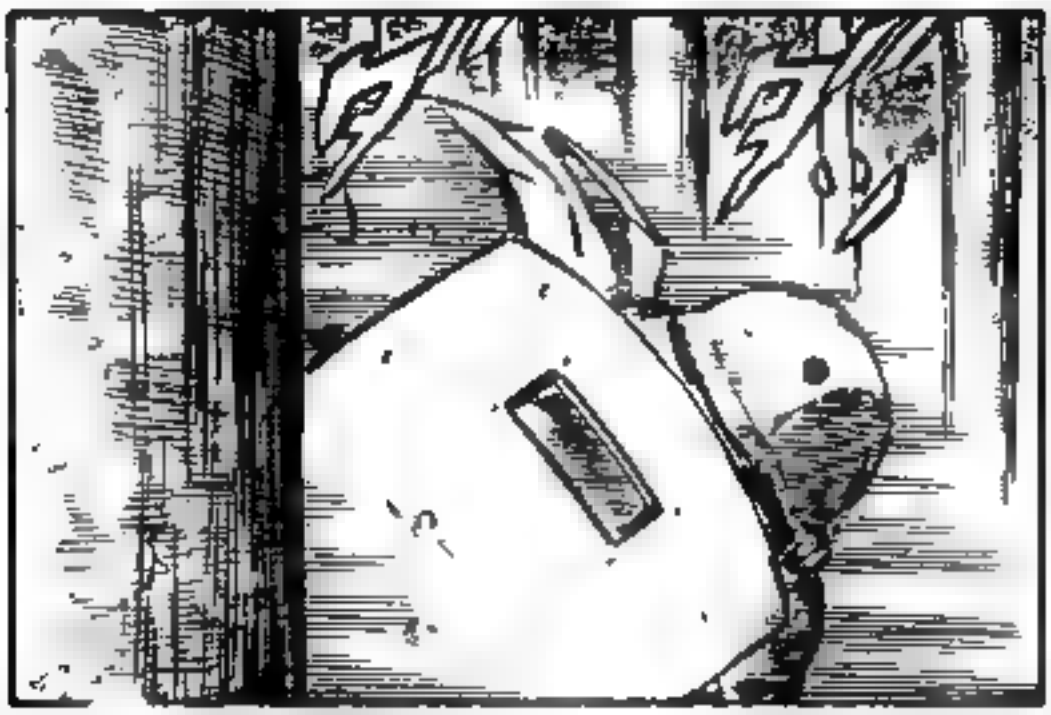

SA
TACTI

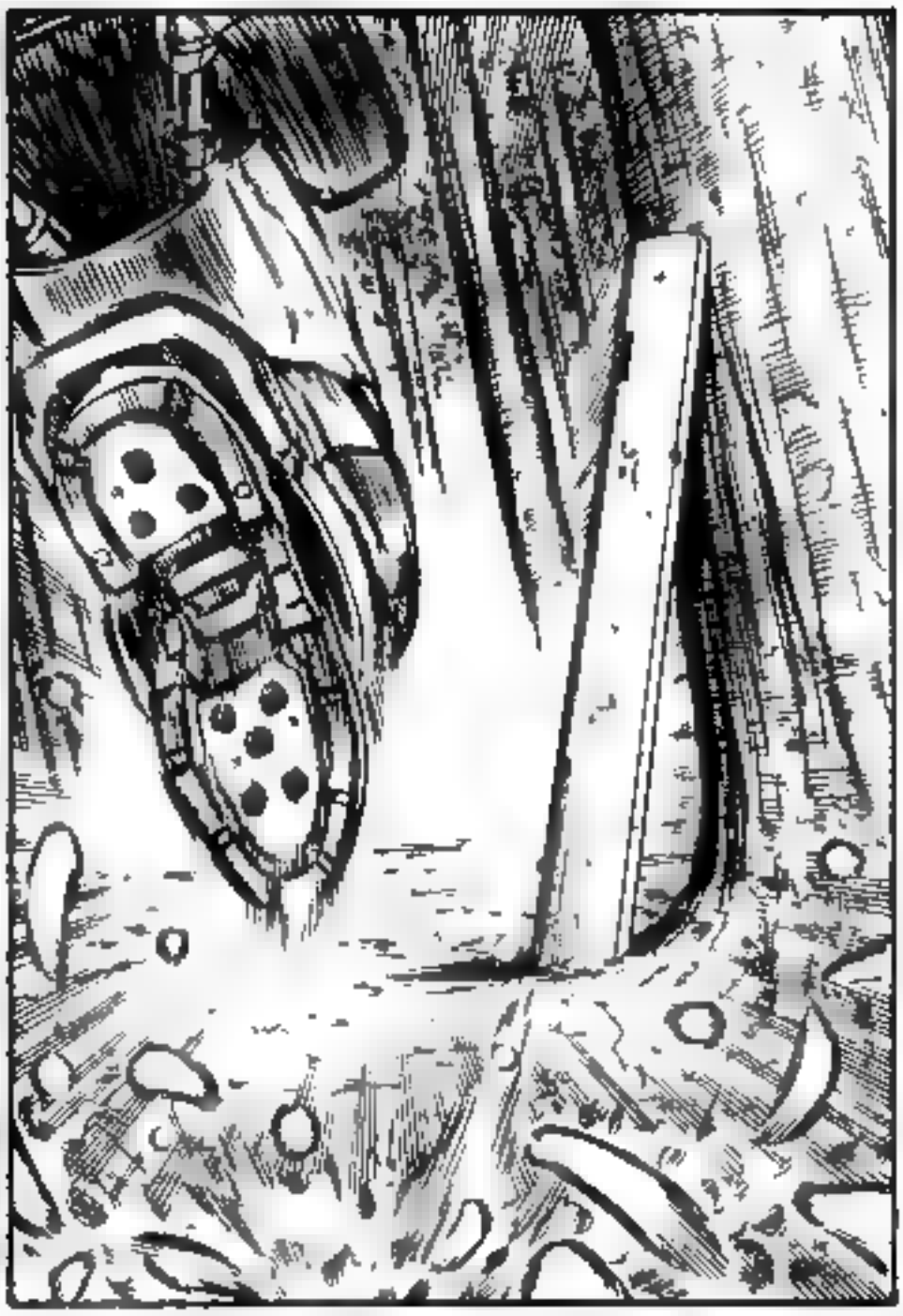


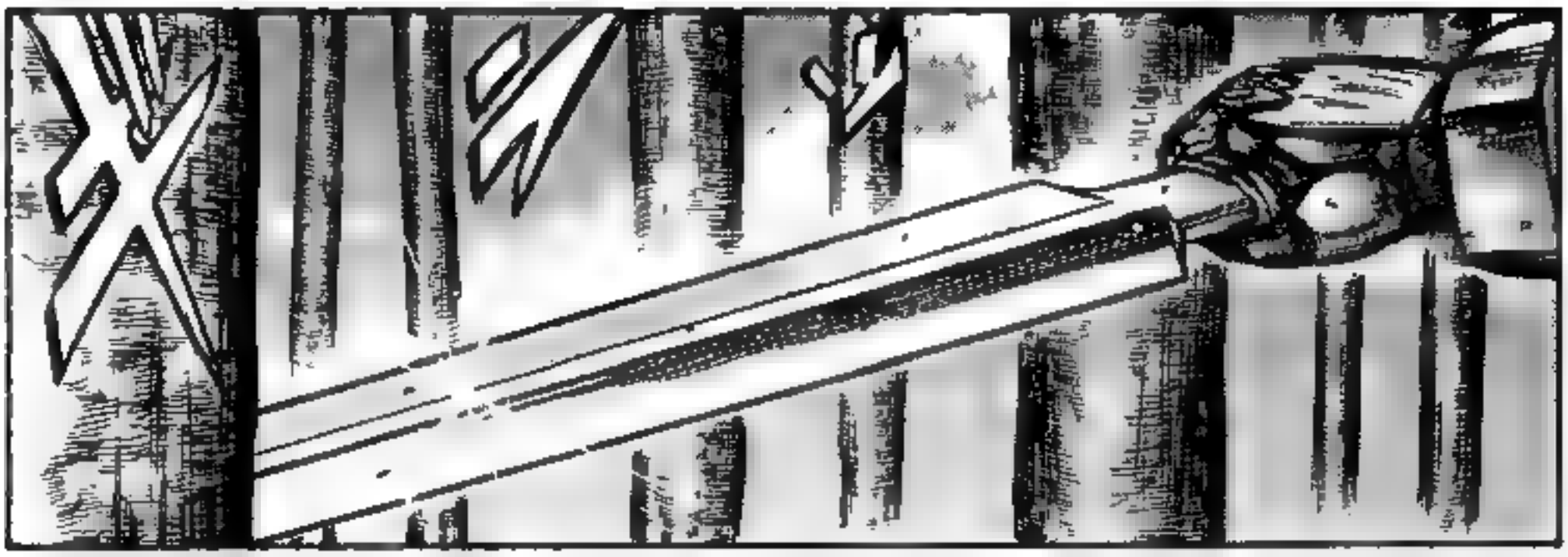

GHARGH!

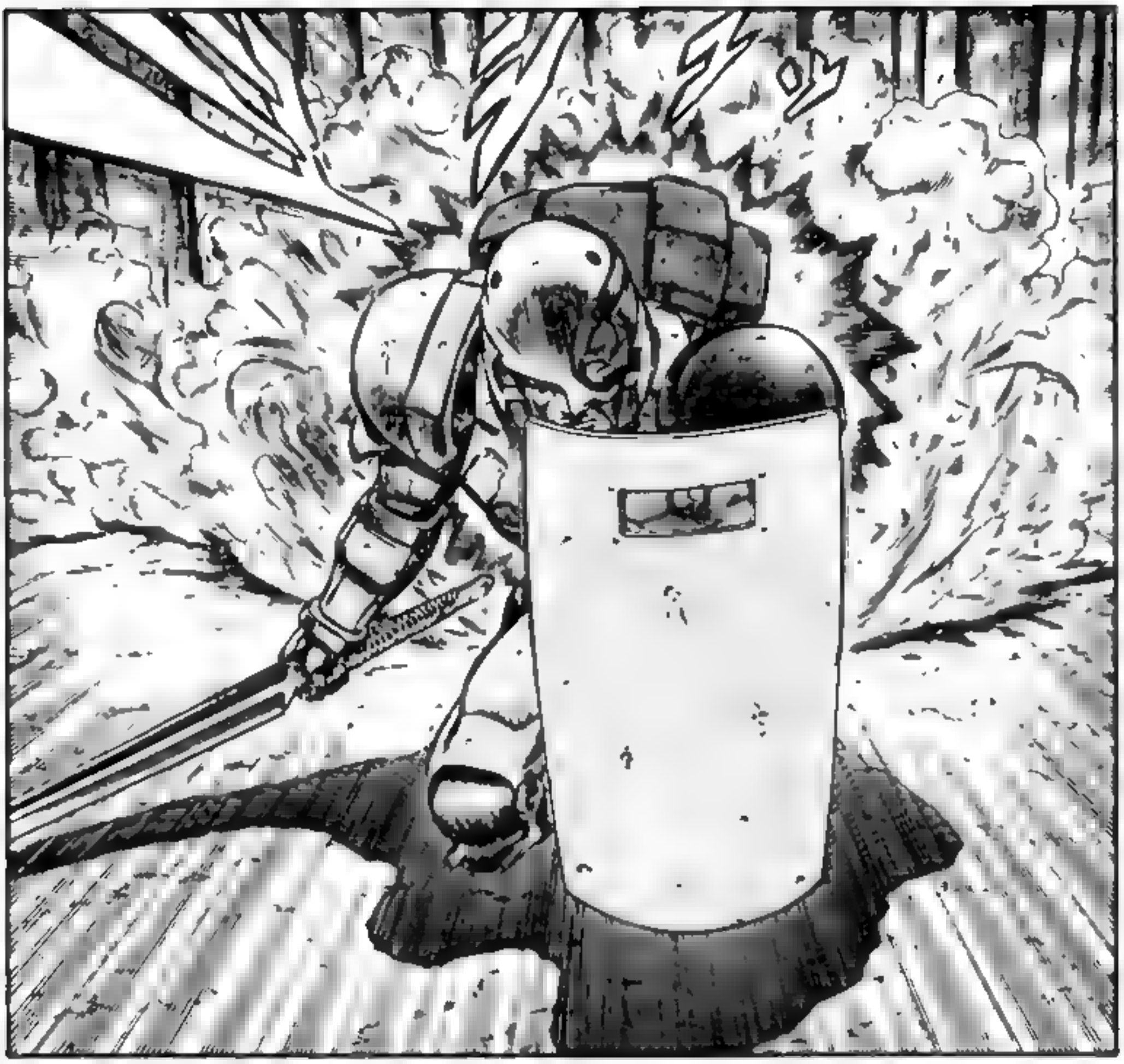
WHERE'D HE GO?!

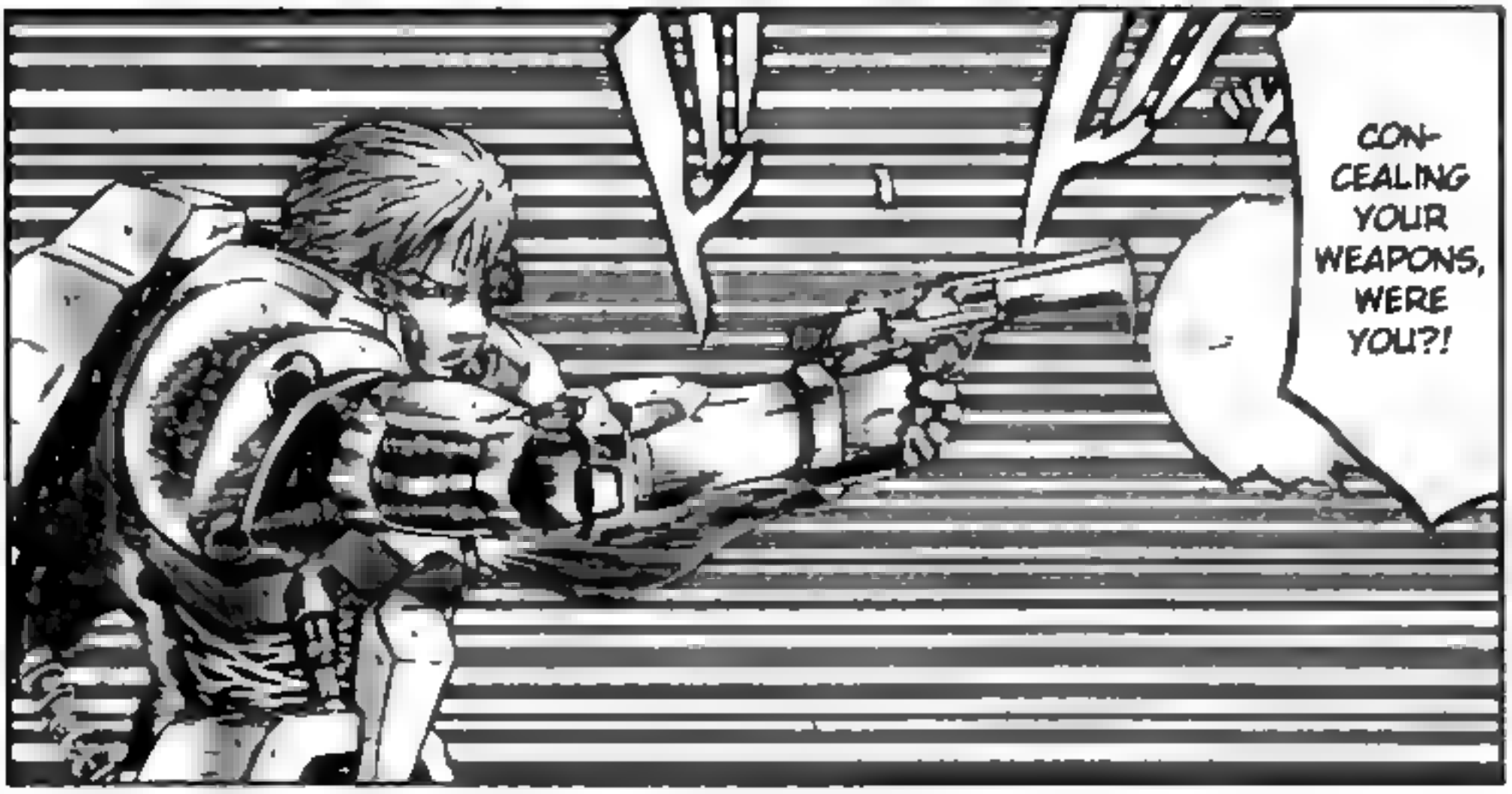


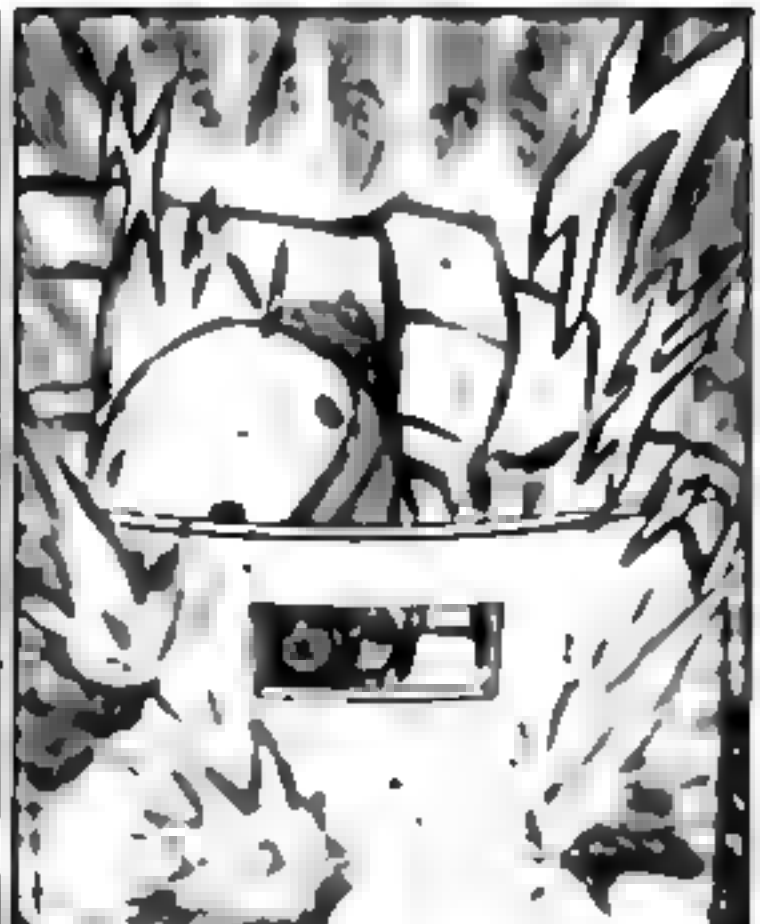


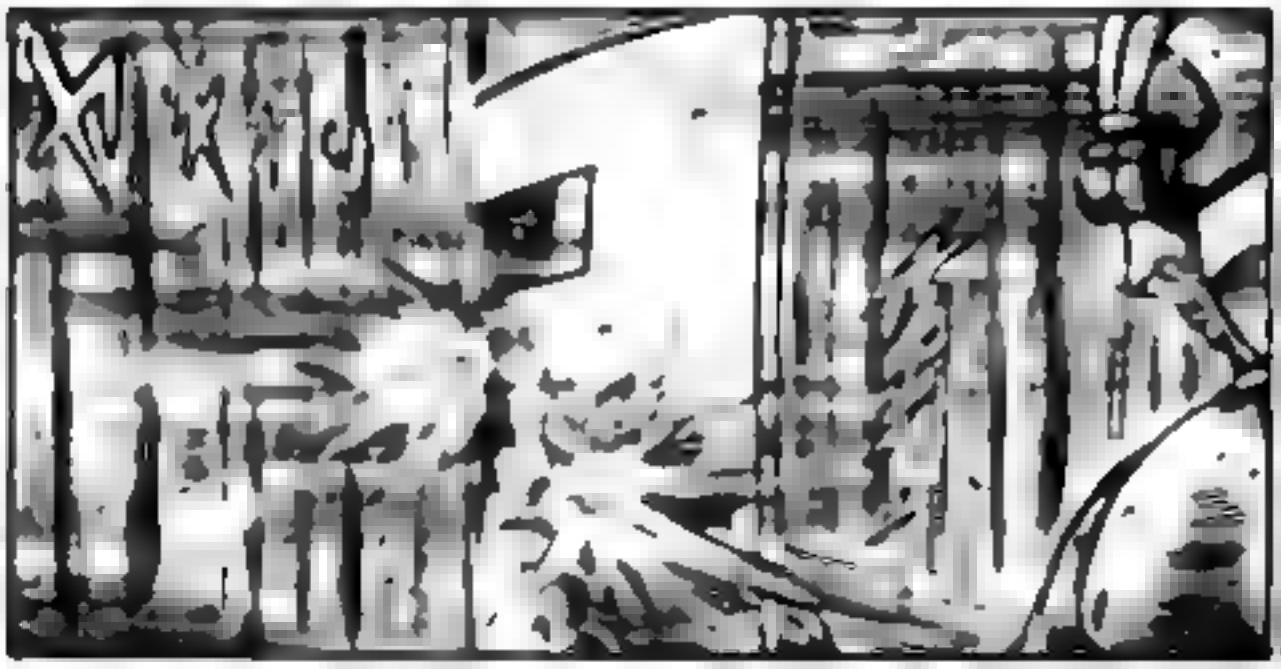


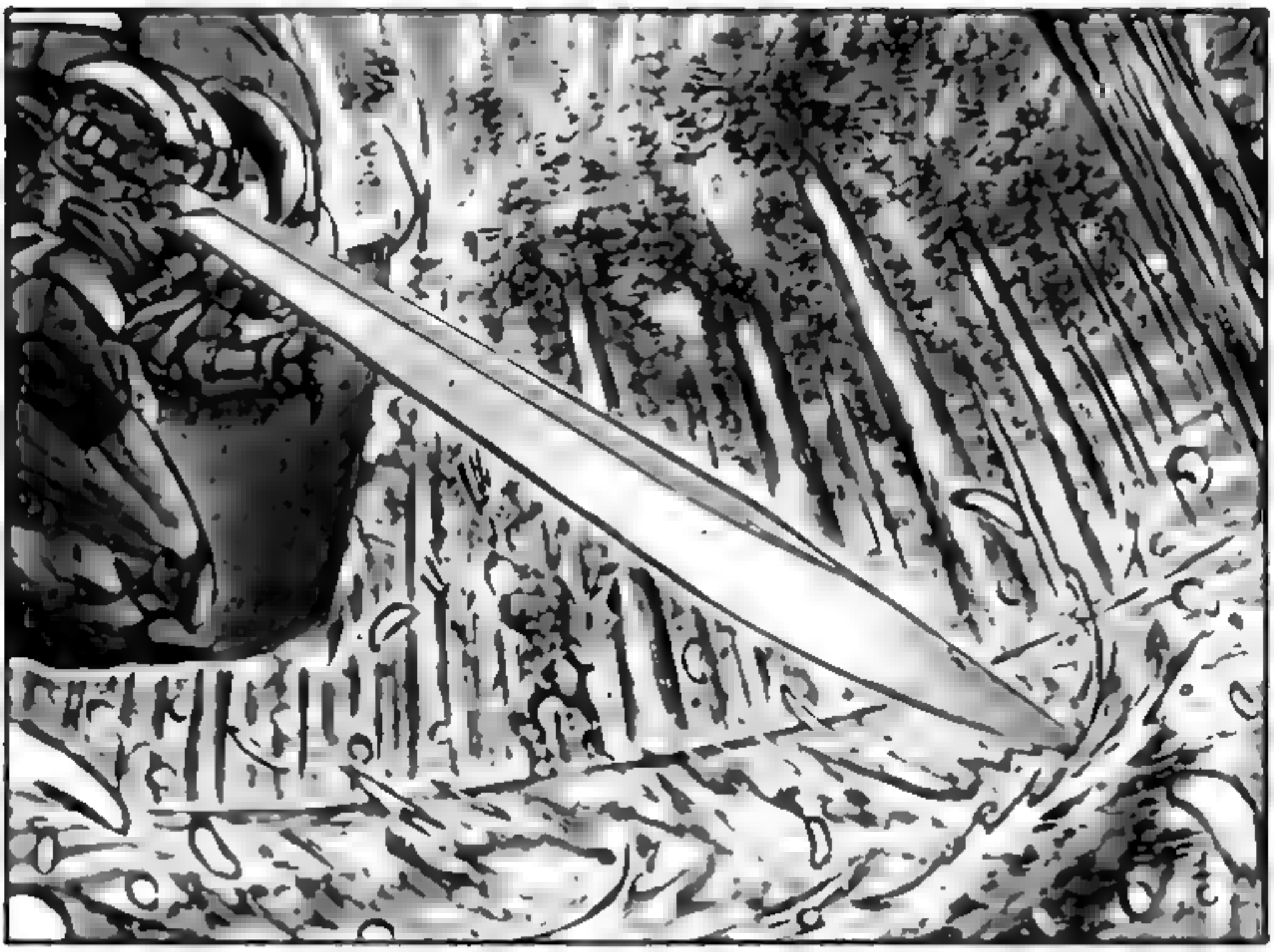





CON-
CEALING
YOUR
WEAPONS,
WERE
YOU?!

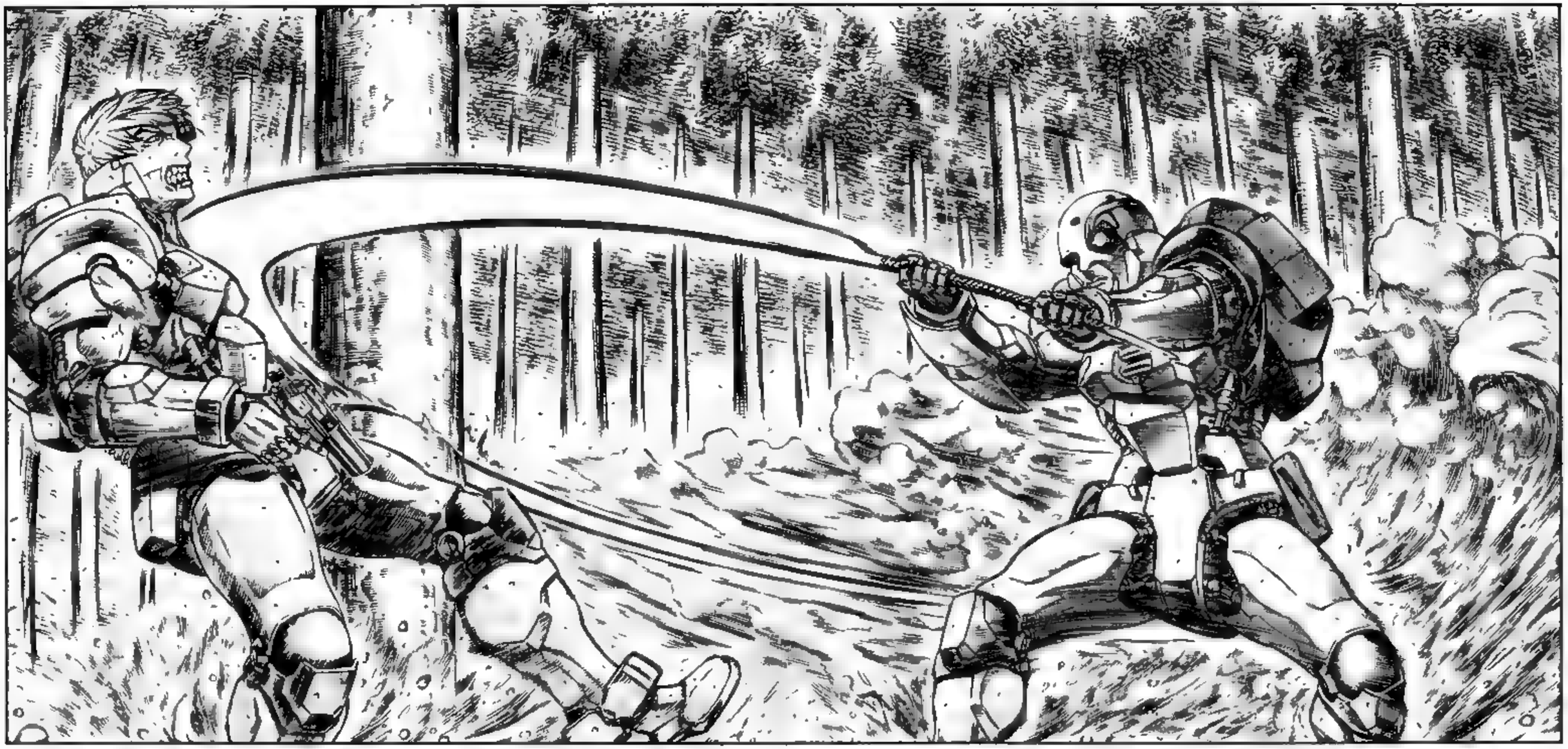


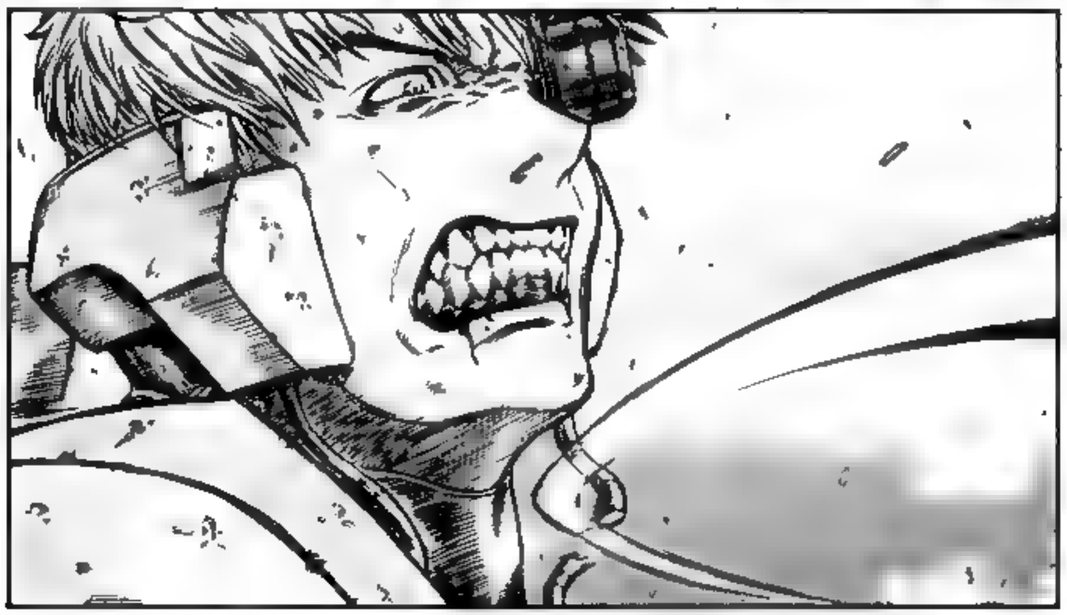


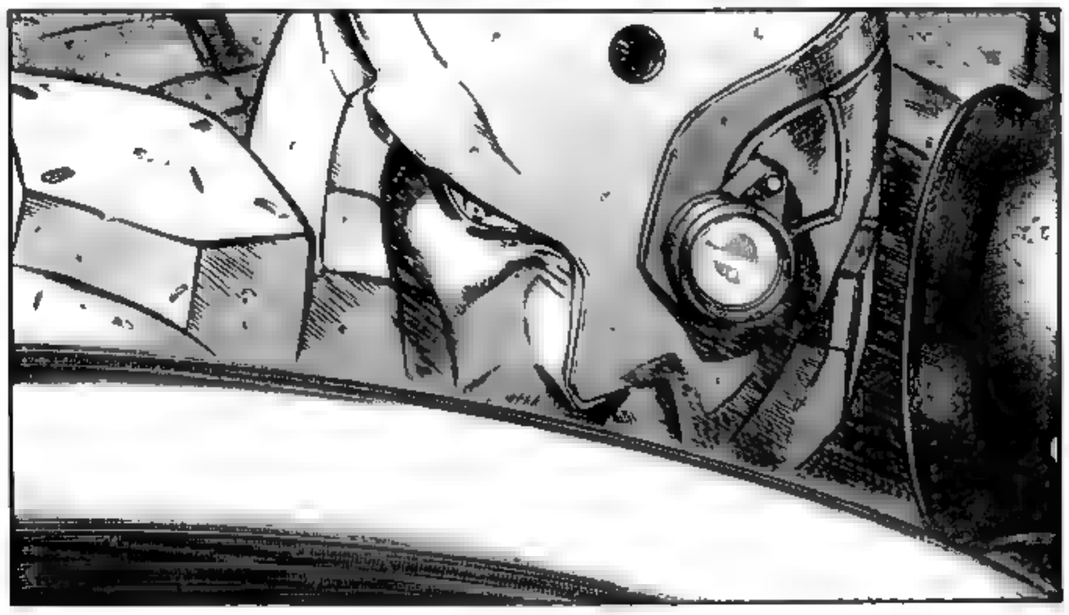


TSK!

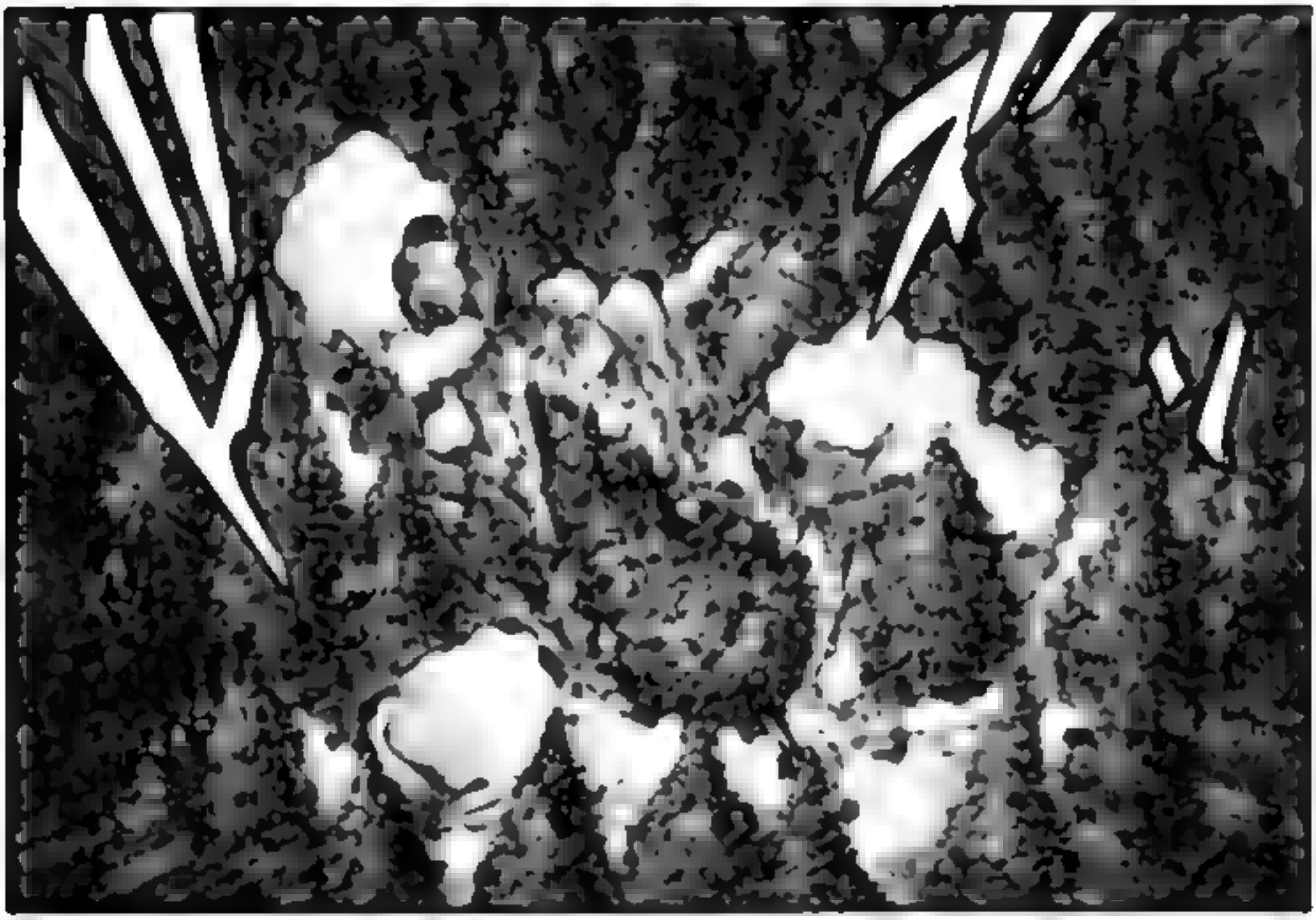
CRAP! HE'S TAKING ADVANT-AGE OF THE MEAN-TIME...

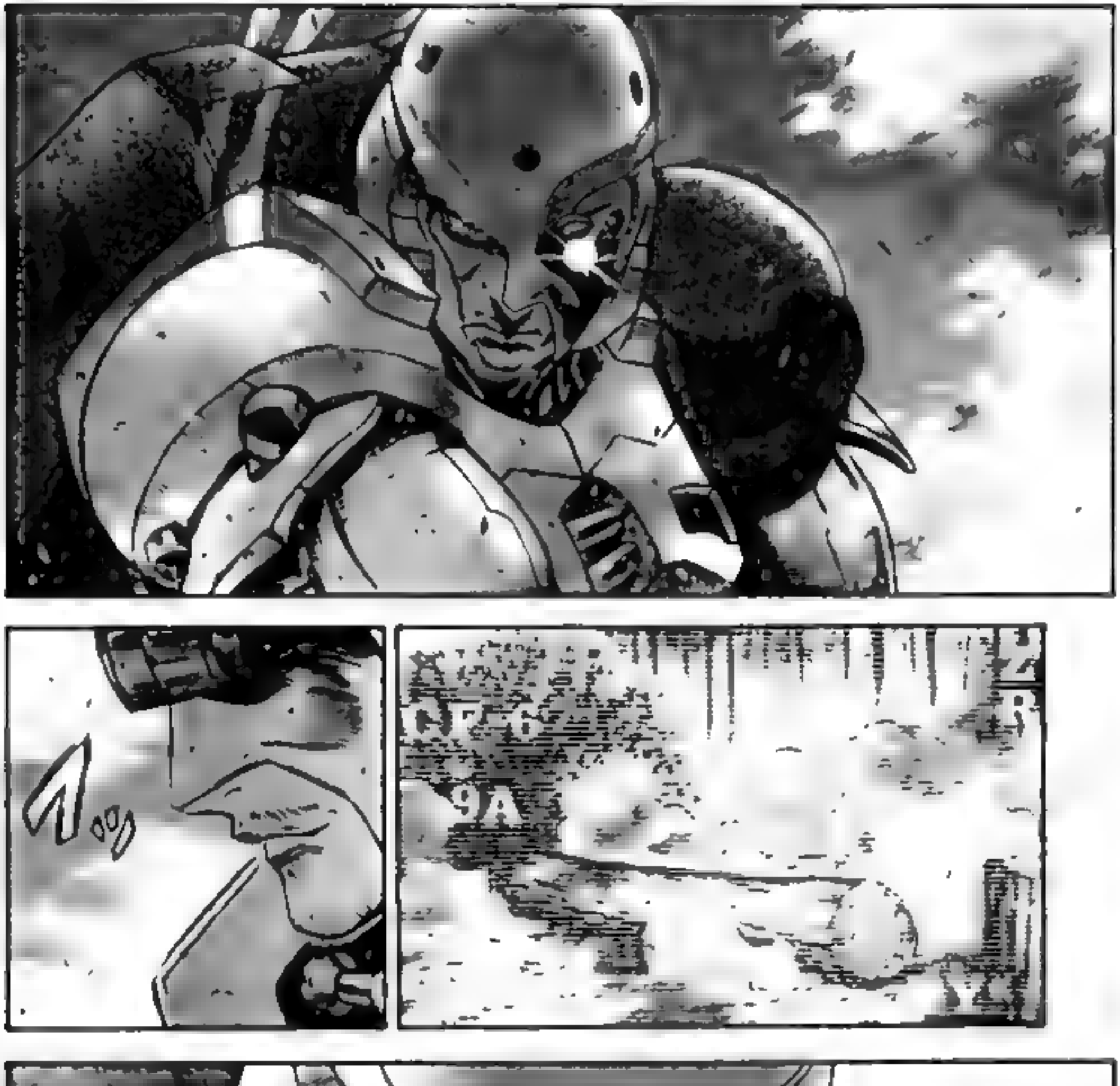






GASP!





GOT AWAY. HUH?

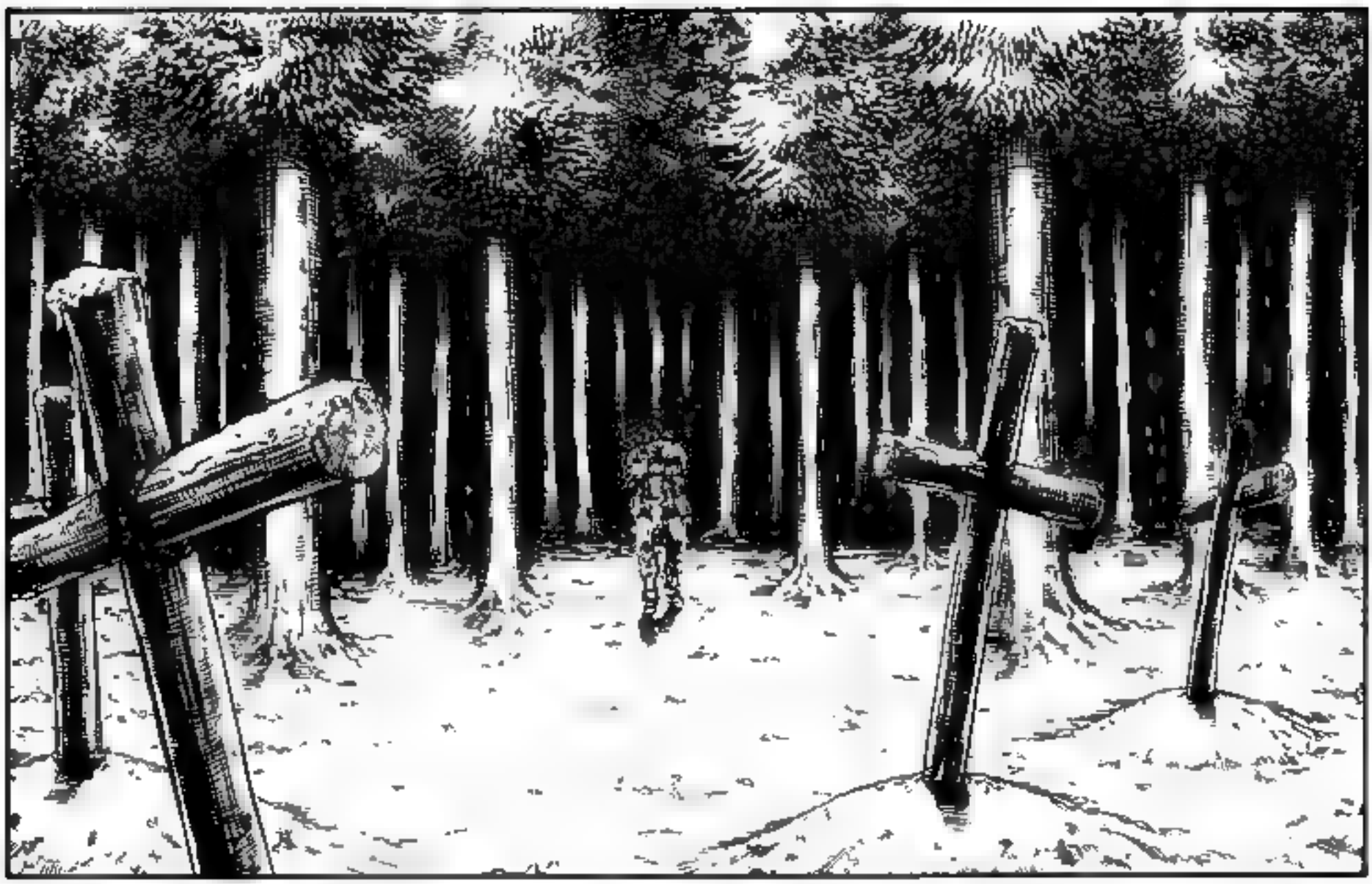
...BUT RIDAS WAS RIGHT ABOUT THAT PEEP.

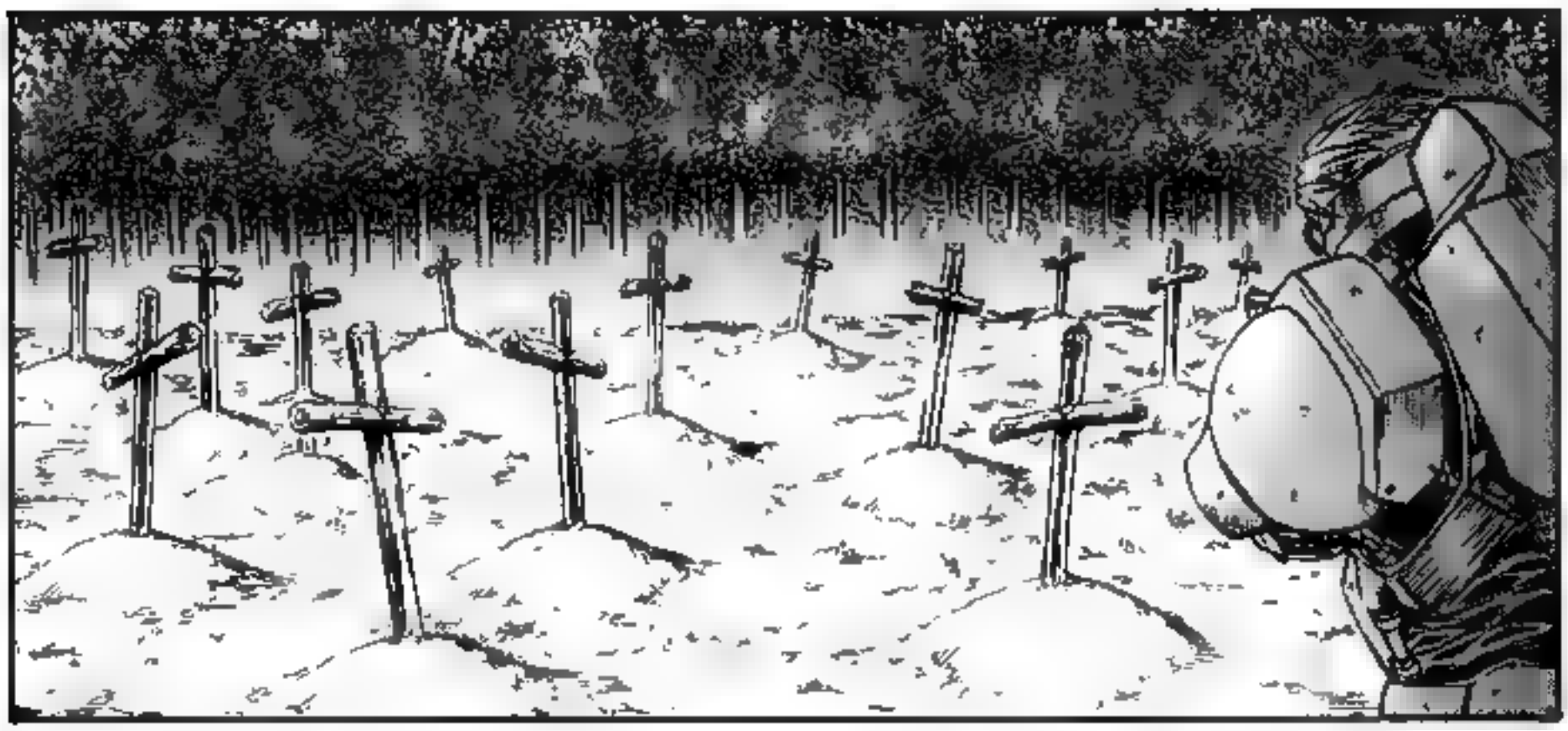
DAMNIT! I HATE TO ADMIT IT...

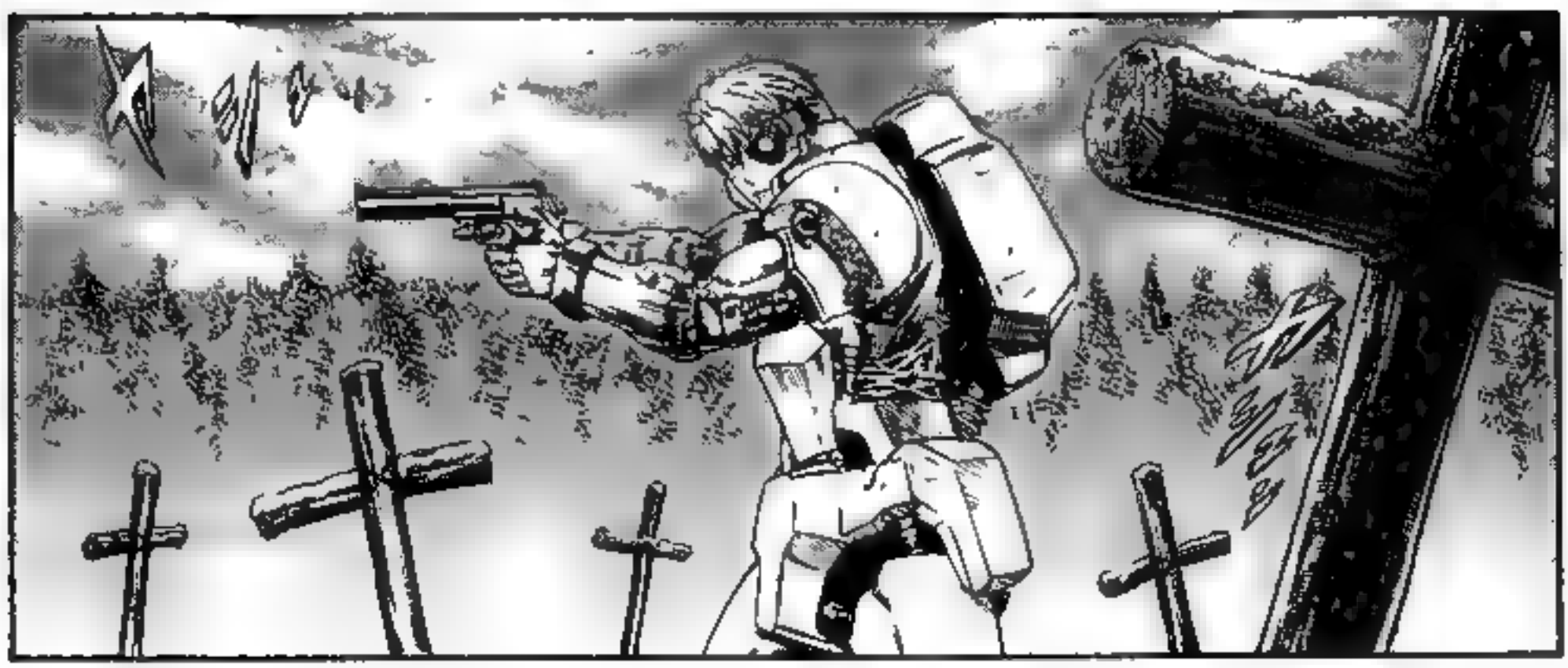
THAT SAID... CAPTURING HIM WITHOUT KILLING HIM IS GONNA BE NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE.

IF I UNDER-ESTIMATE HIM, I WON'T LIVE TO REGRET IT.

HM?!

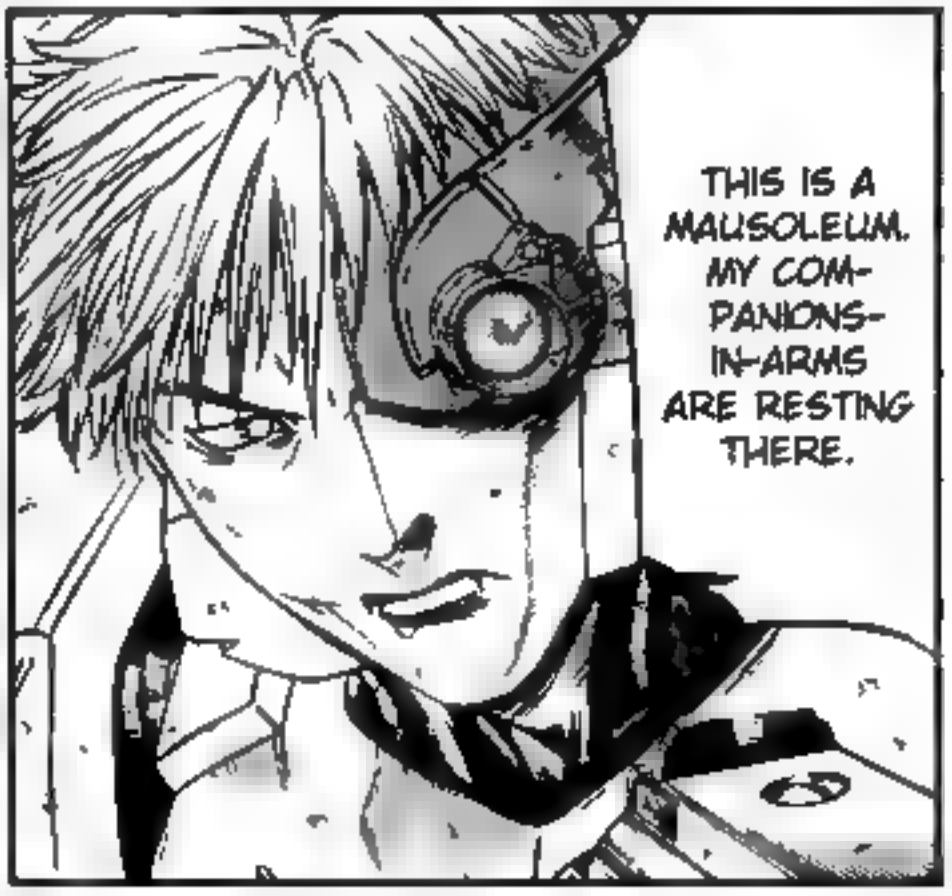






HEAR ME, BARDICH-TYPE SAA WEARER!

STEP AWAY, NOW!


THIS IS A MAUSOLEUM. MY COMPANIONS-IN-ARMS ARE RESTING THERE.

I WILL NOT ATTACK SO LONG AS YOU'RE STILL STANDING WITHIN THIS AREA.
IT IS HOLY GROUND, AND I WILL NOT BEFOUL IT WITH BLOOD-SHED.

MY NAME IS GRAHAD MILLS.

SIEBER-NAU, RIGHT?

AS IN, "GENOCIDE"?

GRAHAD MILLS..?

...WITH THE INTENTION TO KILL YOU.

THE SAME... I DID NOT COME HERE...

...BUT TO INFORM YOU THAT THE WAR HERE HAS ENDED A LONG TIME AGO.

BUT A BUNCH OF FOLKS DON'T FEEL LIKE ADMITTING THE LOSS, AND THEY'RE STILL FIGHTING... WE NEED YOUR HELP IN THIS WAR.

IT'S THE TRUTH. REGIUM HAS SURRENDERED.

AND THEY SEND GENOCIDE, THE BATTLEFIELD REAPER OF ALL PEOPLE? I DON'T BUY IT.

HAH...

HIS ORDERS TO YOU ARE NOW NULL AND VOID... PROCEED TO YOUR NEXT MISSION!

YOUR COMMANDING OFFICER - MAJOR MASETTI - HAS DIED IN BATTLE.

AND NOTHING TELLS ME THAT YOU REALLY ARE GENOCIDE!

MAJOR MASETTI CAN'T BE DEAD!

BULL-SHIT..!

...I'M NOT MOVING ONE INCH AWAY FROM THIS PLACE, EVEN IF IT KILLS ME!

UNTIL THE MAJOR RETURNS...

HUMPH... IF YOU REALLY ARE GENOCIDE...

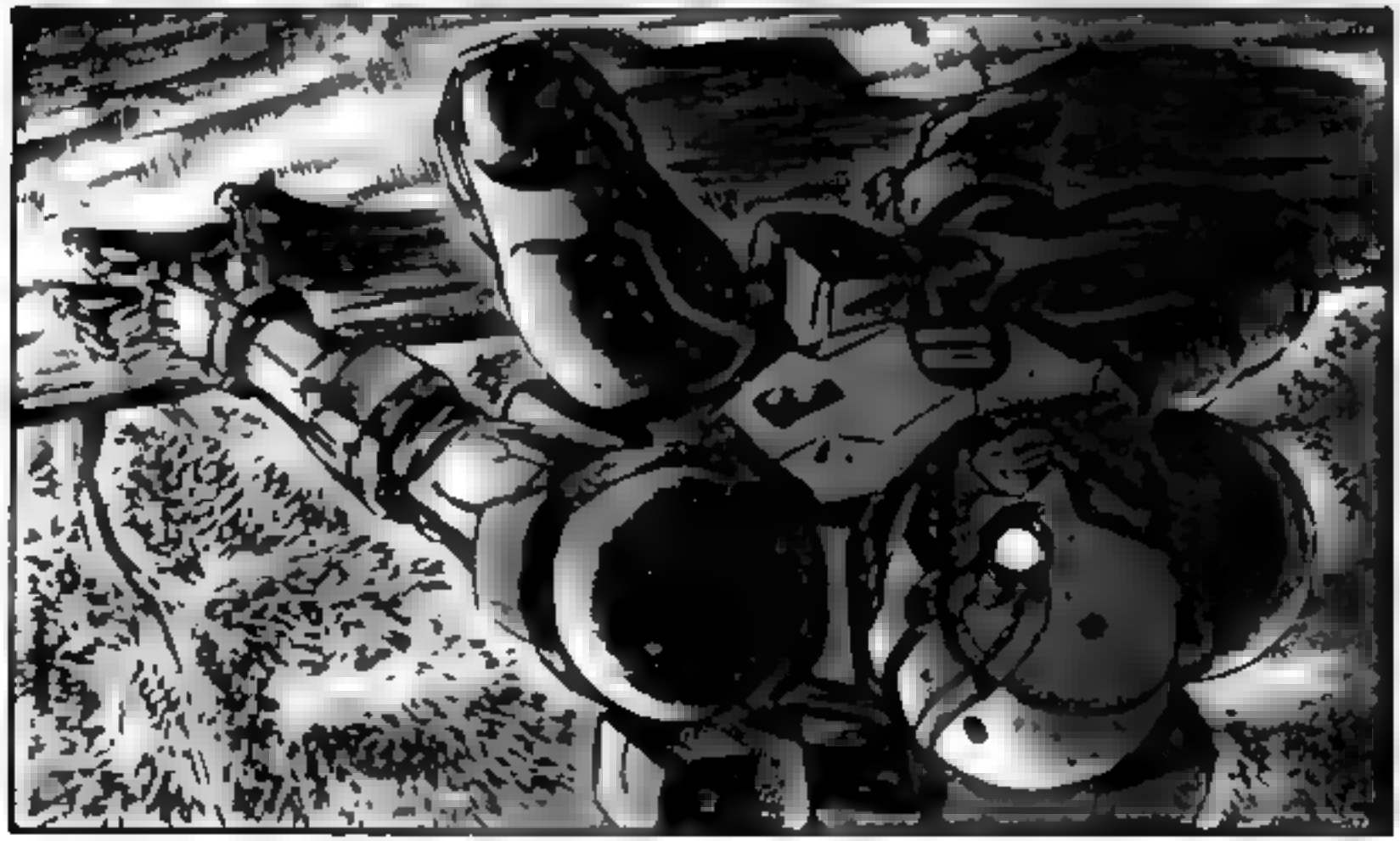
...YOU MIGHT INDEED BE ABLE TO PUT ME DOWN...

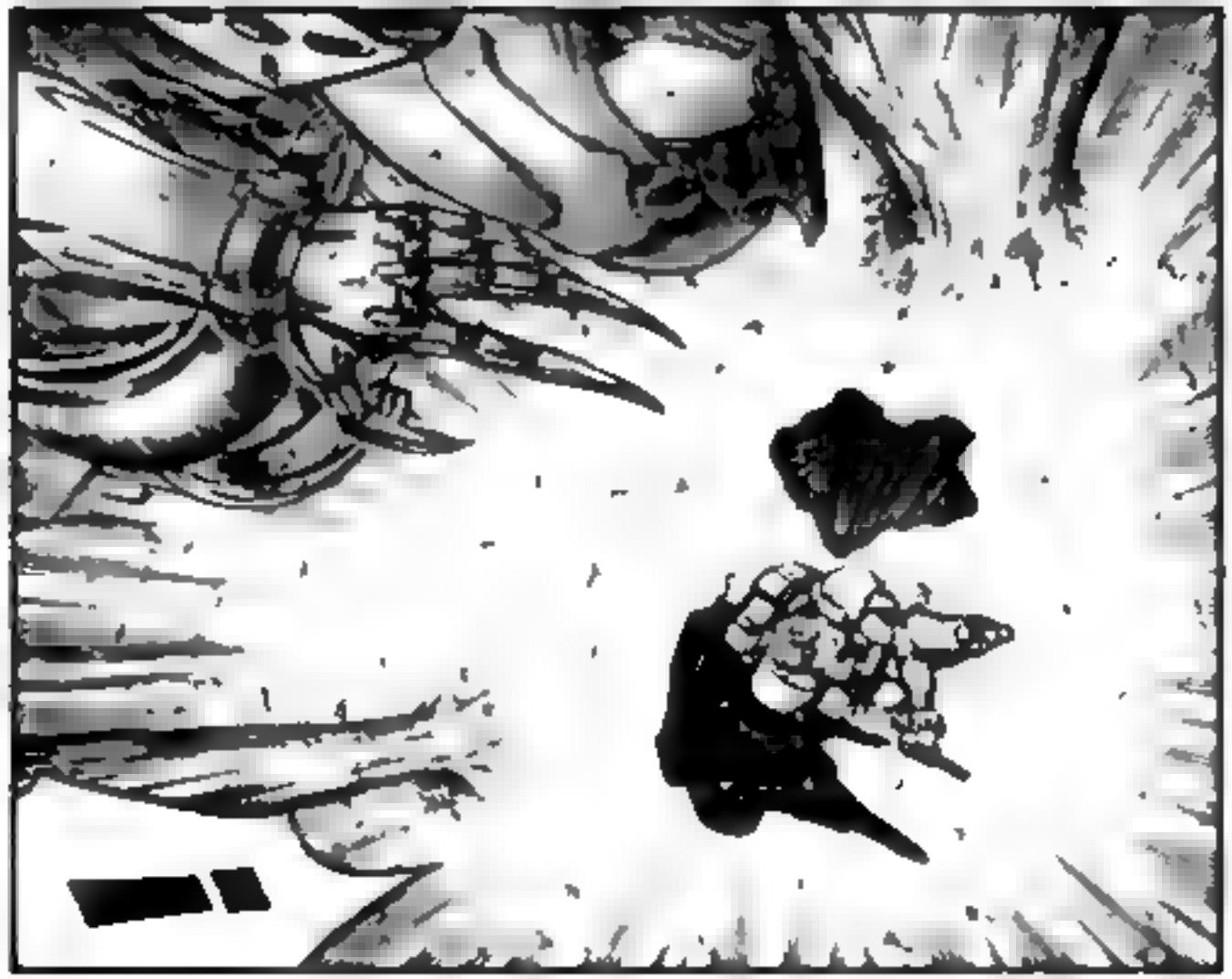
WHETHER YOU LIVE OR DIE IS OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE TO ME.

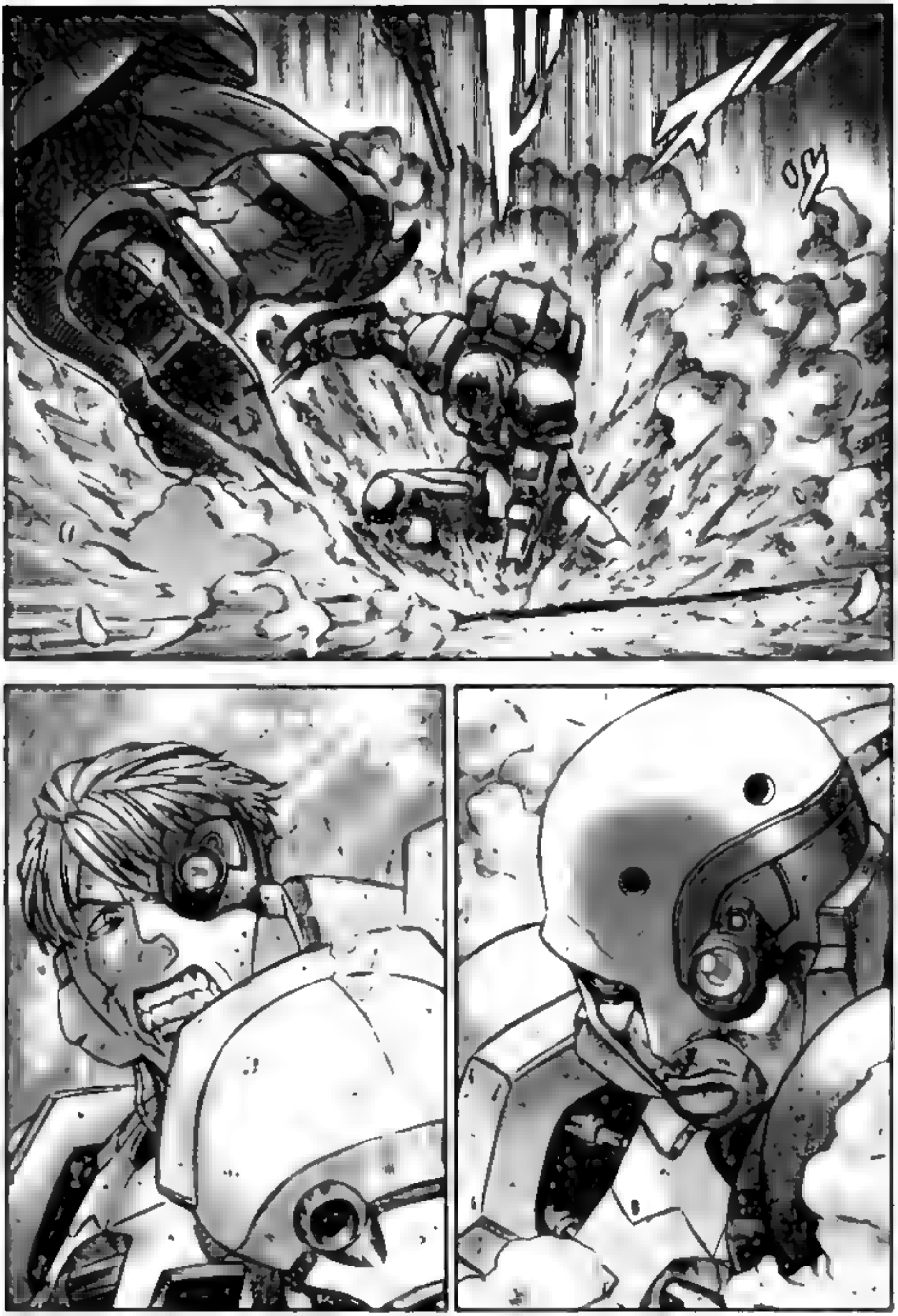
...THE HIGHER-UPS NEED YOU, I DON'T.

WHERE WILL HE ATTACK FROM?!

WHERE'D HE GO HOLE HIMSELF UP TO?

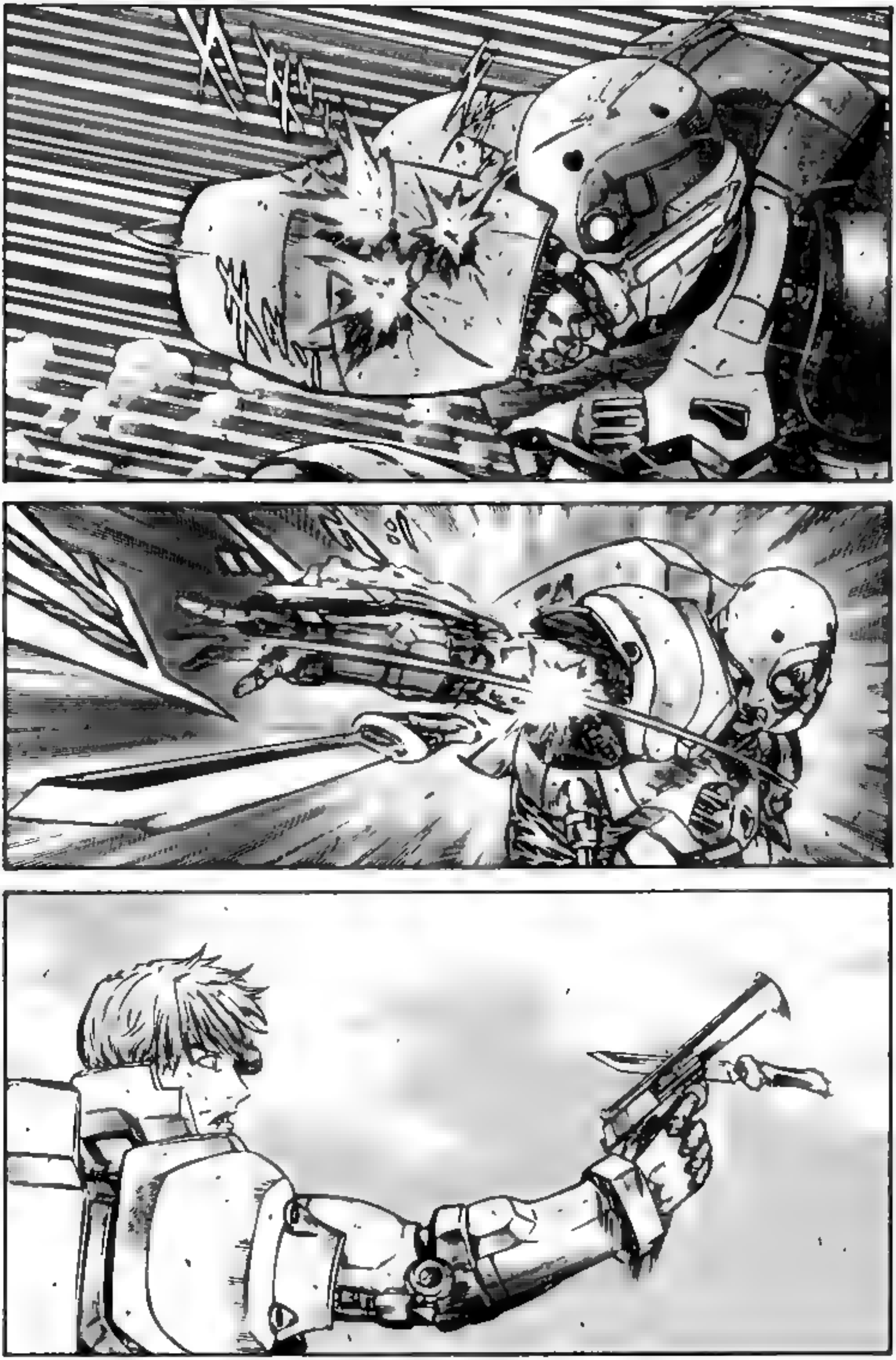






54
S.A.A SPECIAL FORCE✝JACKAL

NGH!

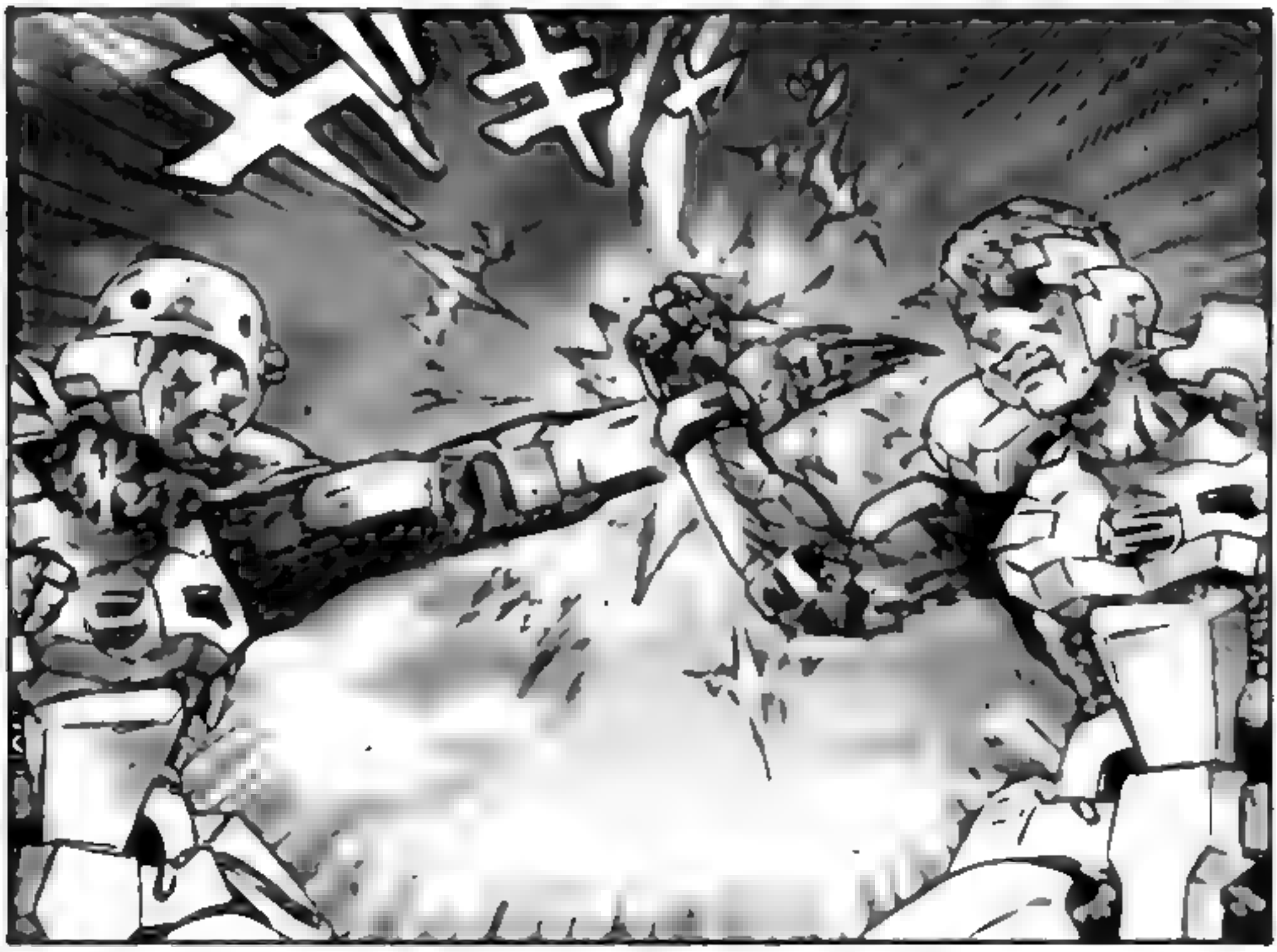


HELL! IT'S GONNA BLOW UP!!

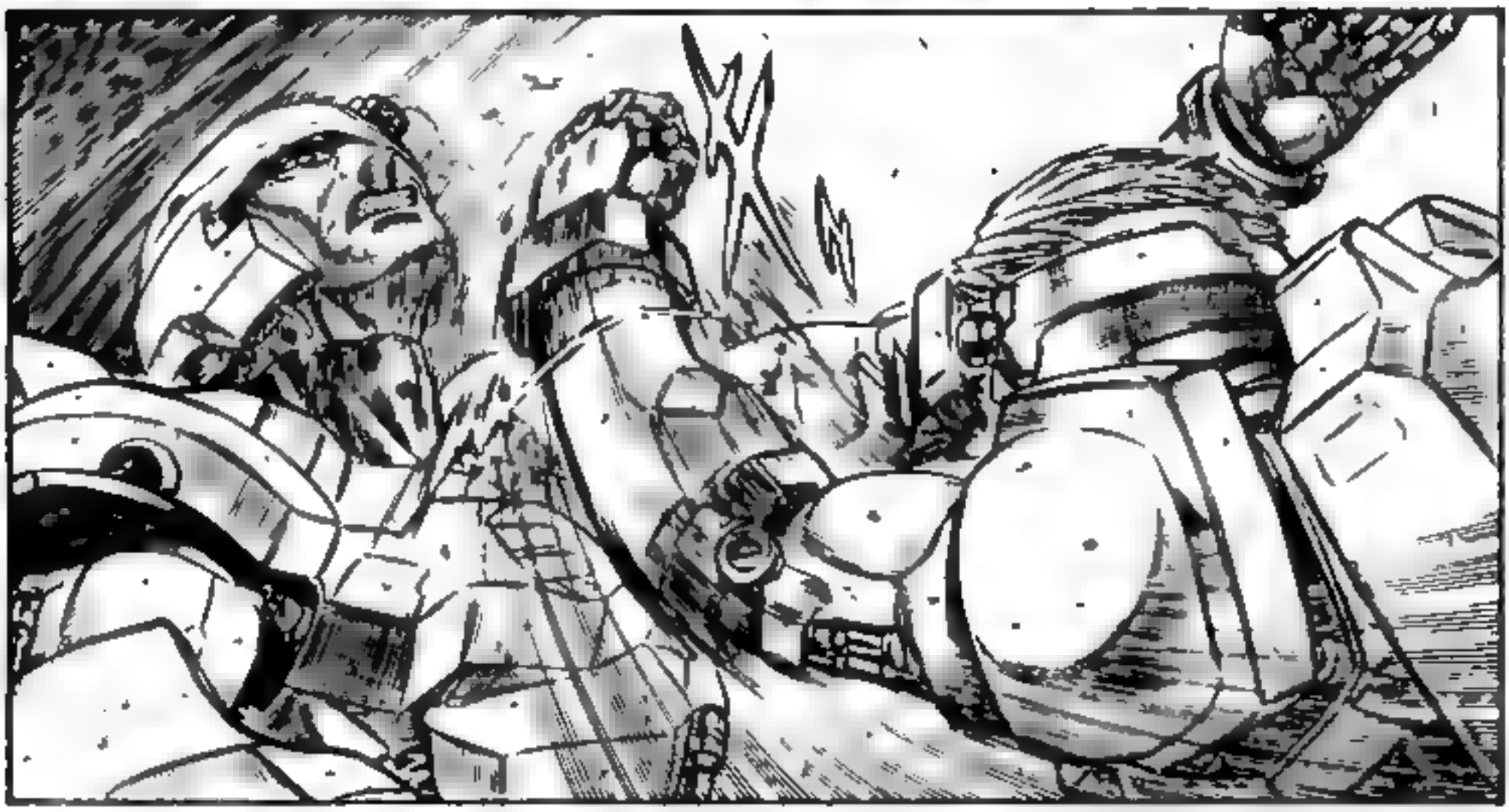
#32 DUEL

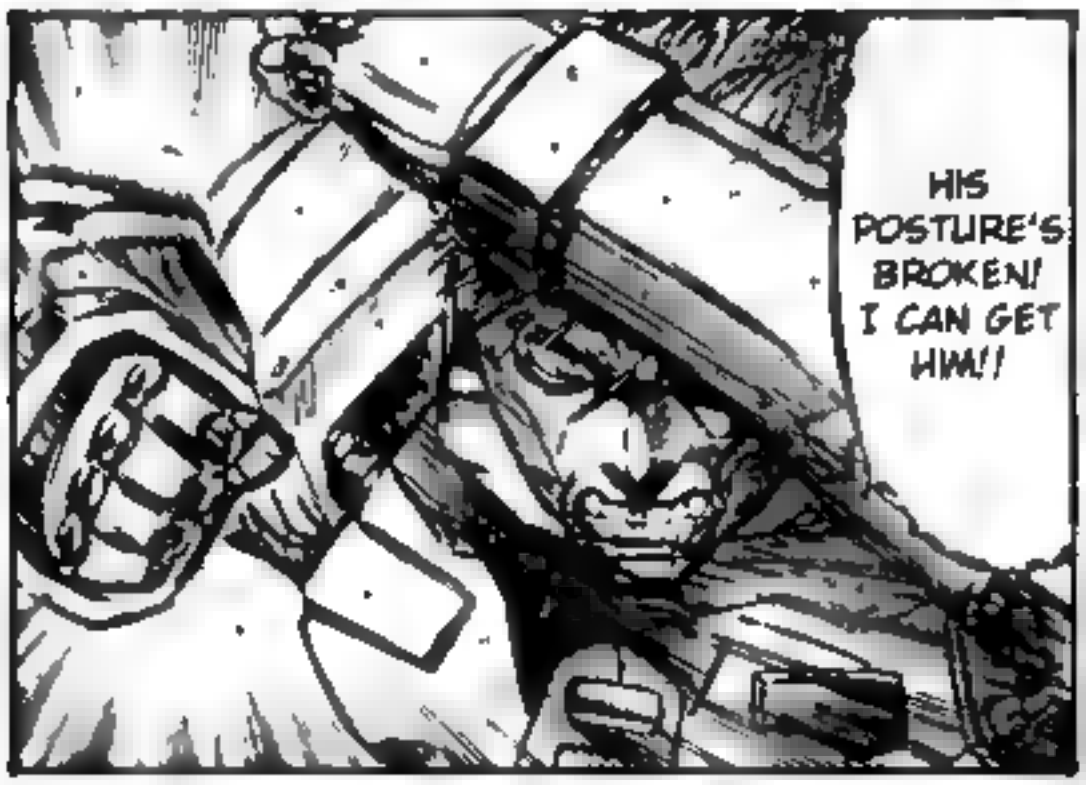
!?

HE'S GONE!



!




HIS POSTURE'S BROKEN! I CAN GET HIM!!

WHAT ?!

UNGH!

GOTTA ADMIT IT. RIDAS' INSTINCTS ARE DEAD ON FOR WANTING THIS GUY.

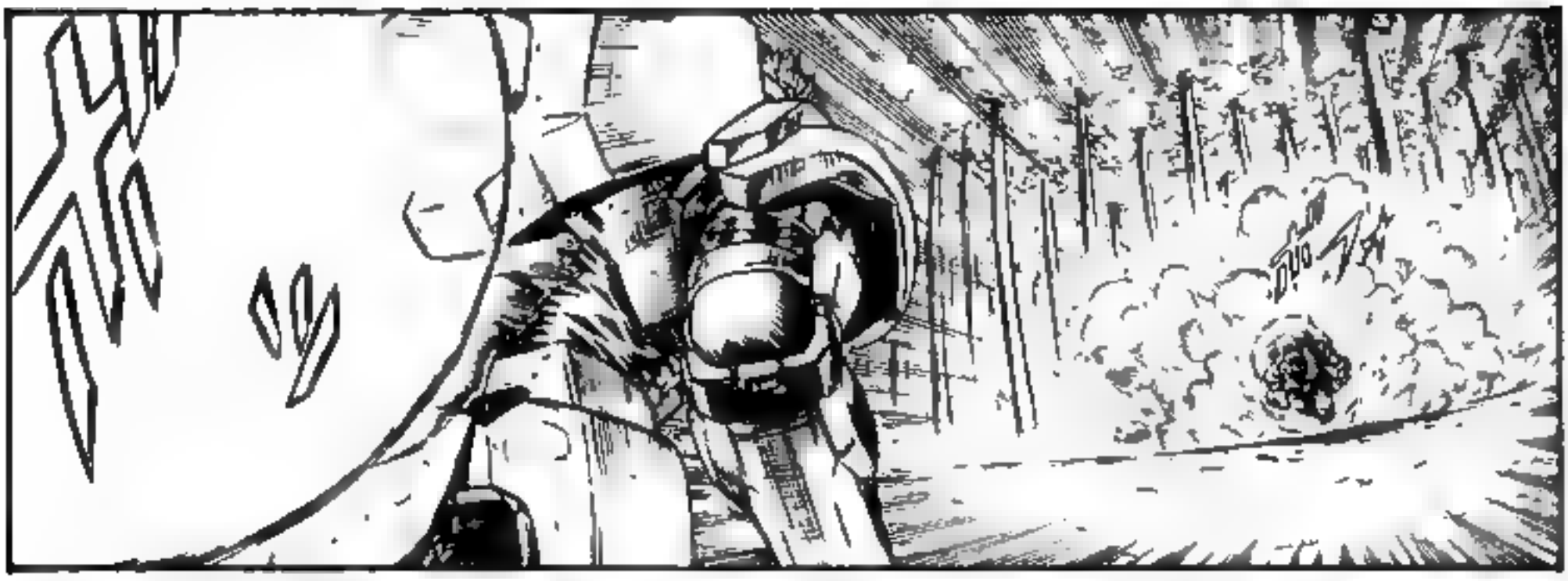
HEH...

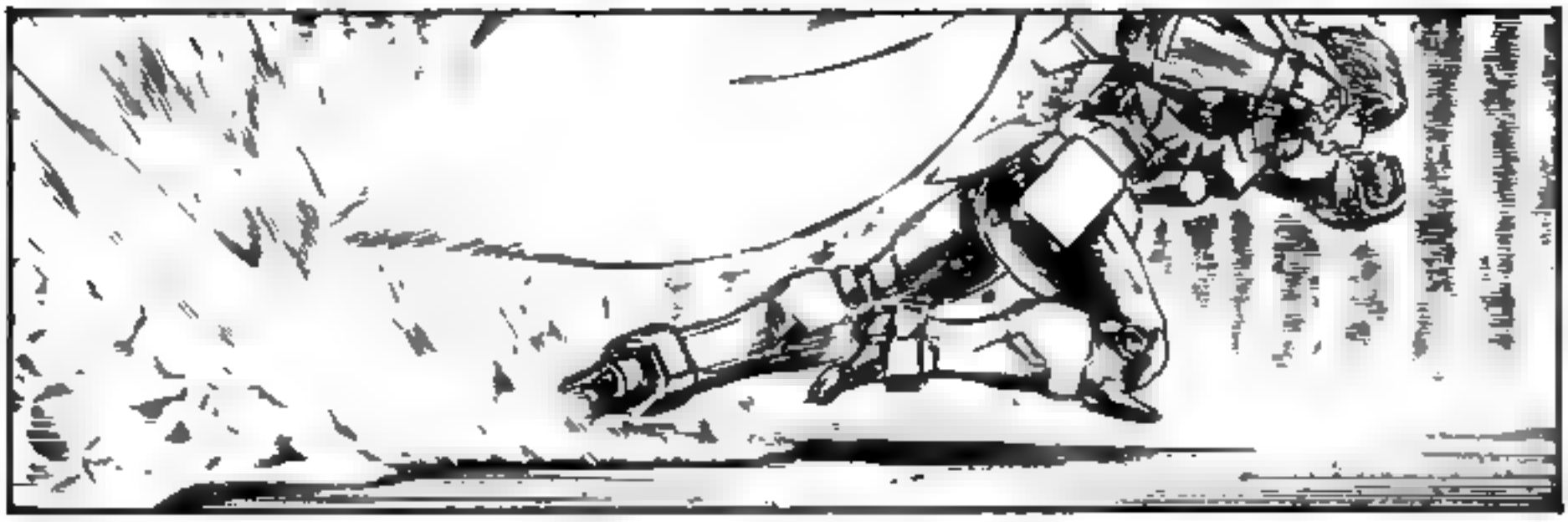
MY CHEAP PARLOR TRICKS WON'T BE OF MUCH USE HERE, APPARENTLY.

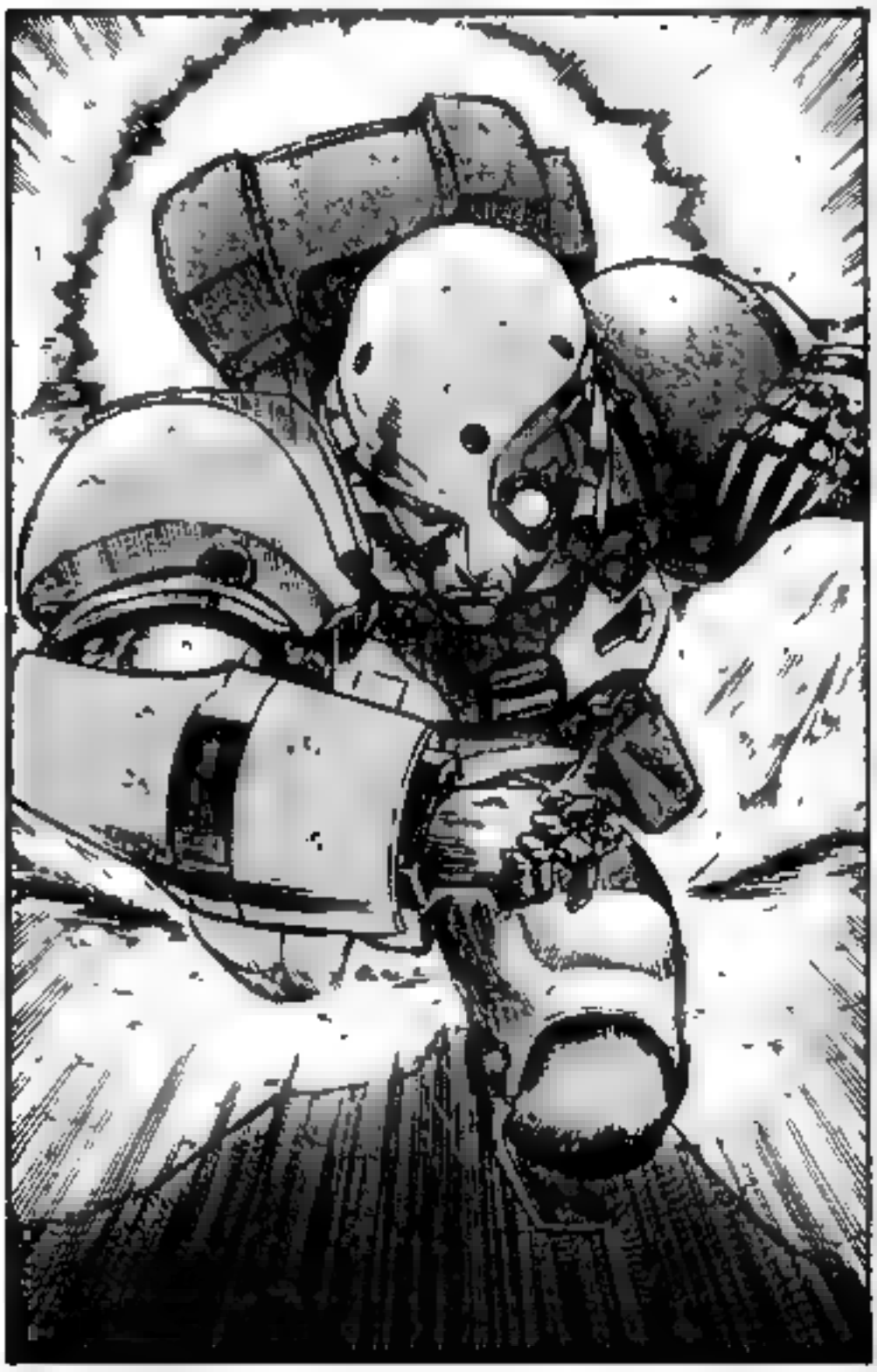
SURELY ENOUGH YOU SHOULD HAVE SKIPPED STRAIGHT DOWN TO BUSINESS.

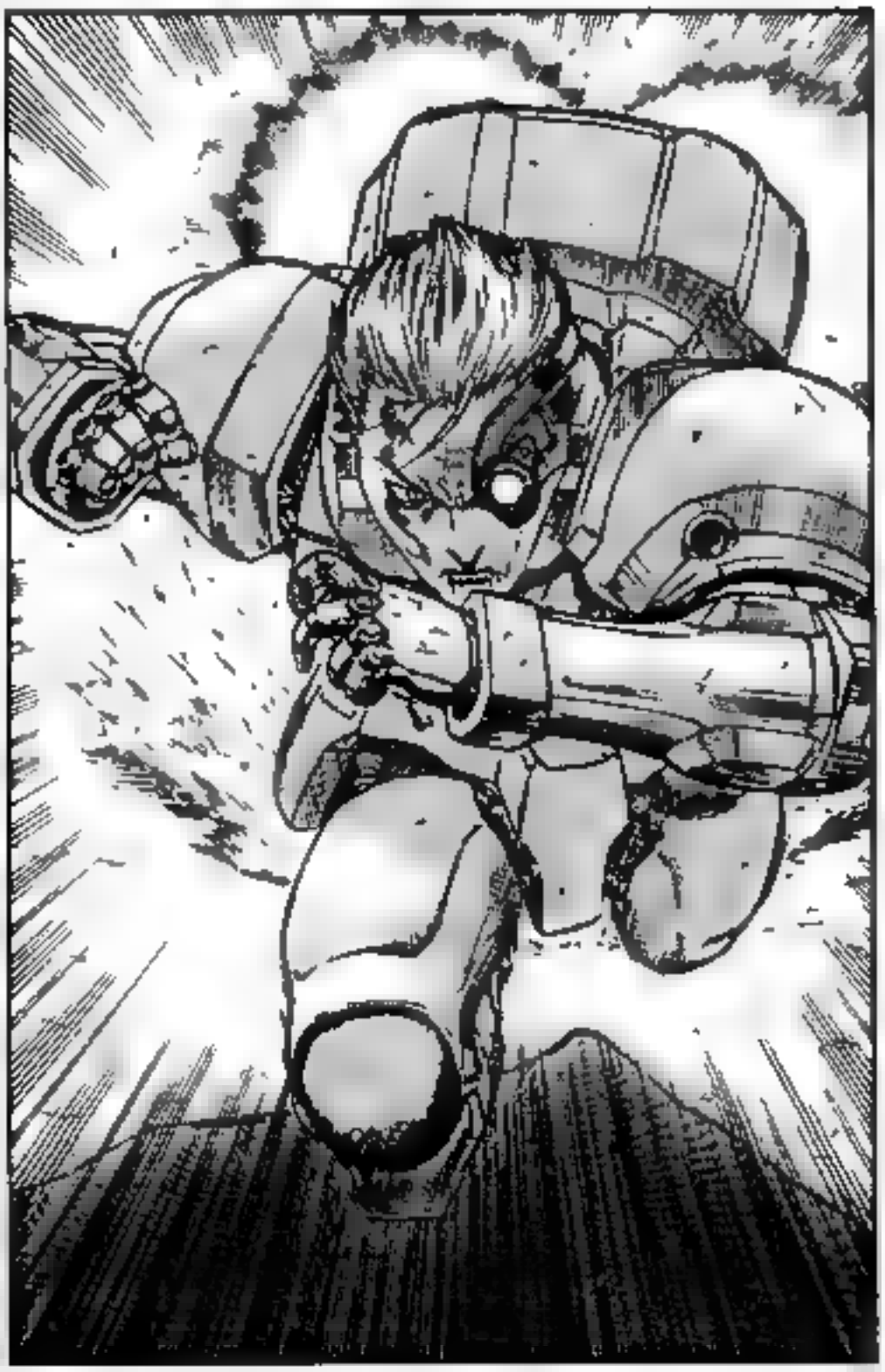
MAJOR MASETTI CAN EASILY CRUSH PEOPLE'S HEADS WHEN HE DOES IT...

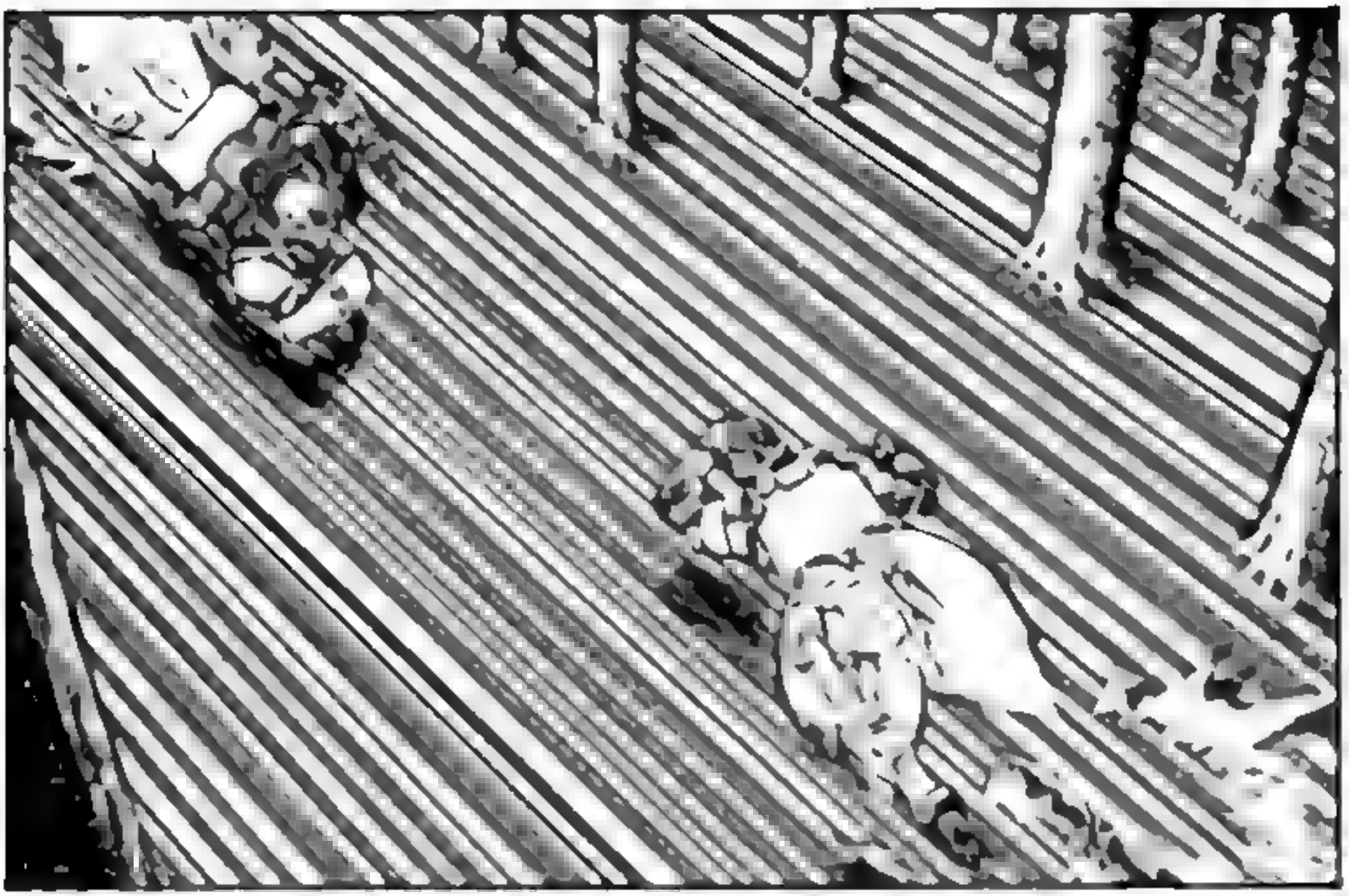
AN ATTACK COMBO THAT TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THE ENHANCED STRENGTH GRANTED BY THE SAA...

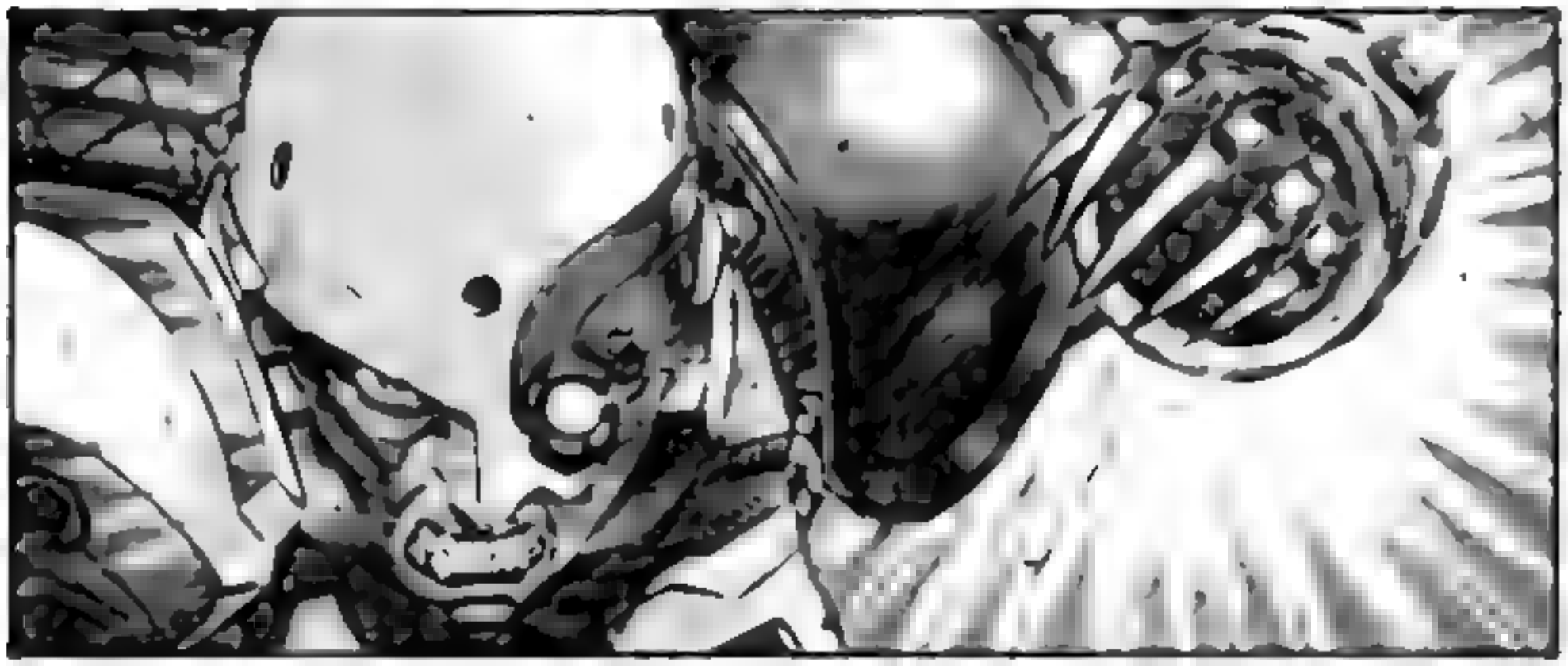

DUO

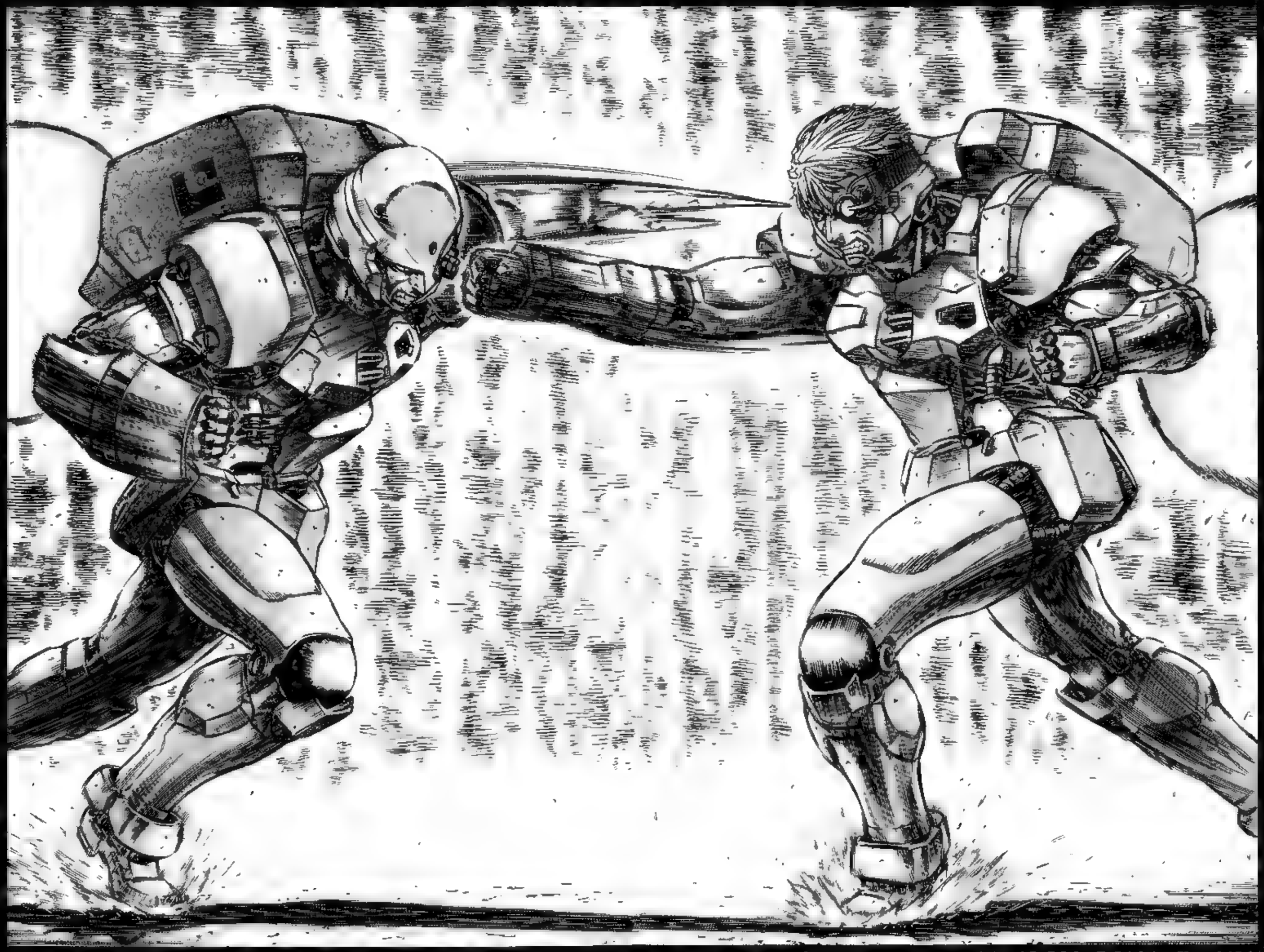




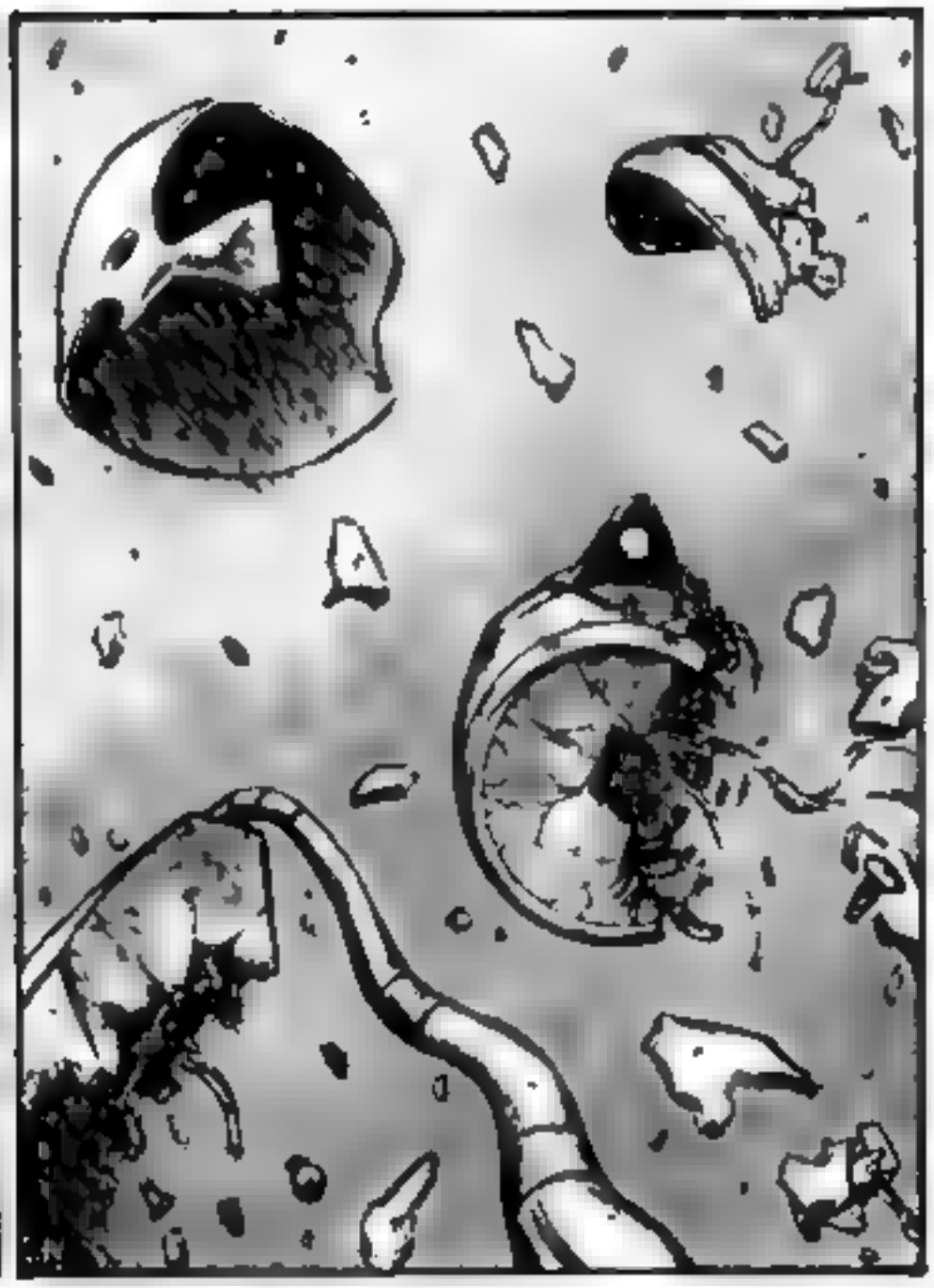


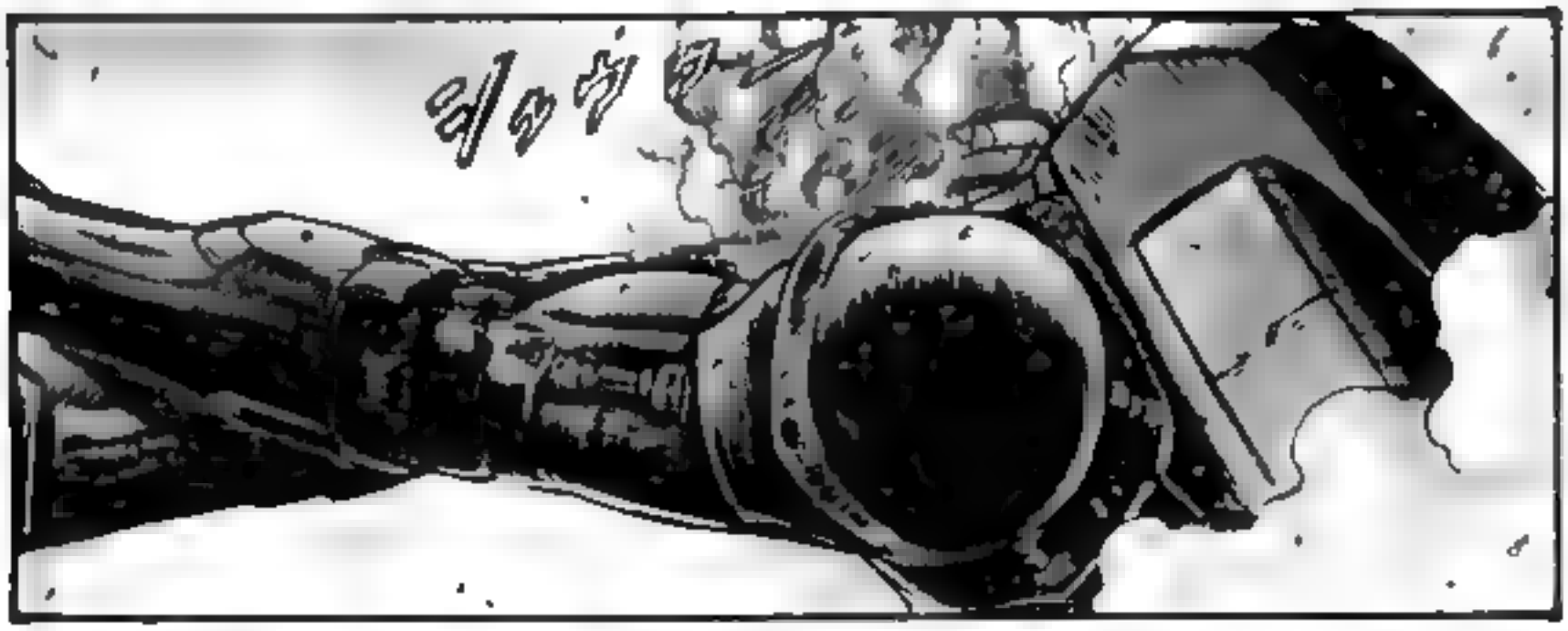


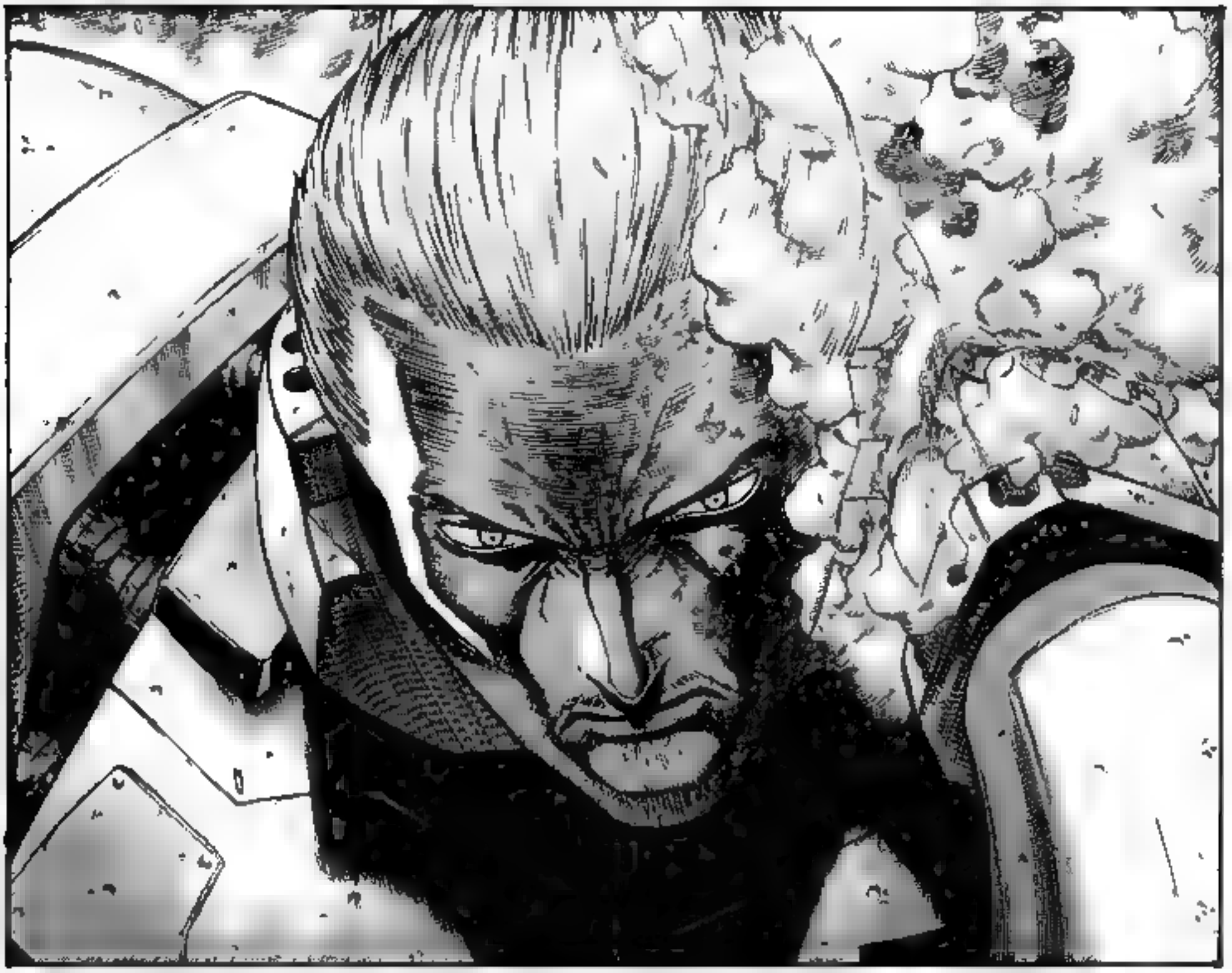


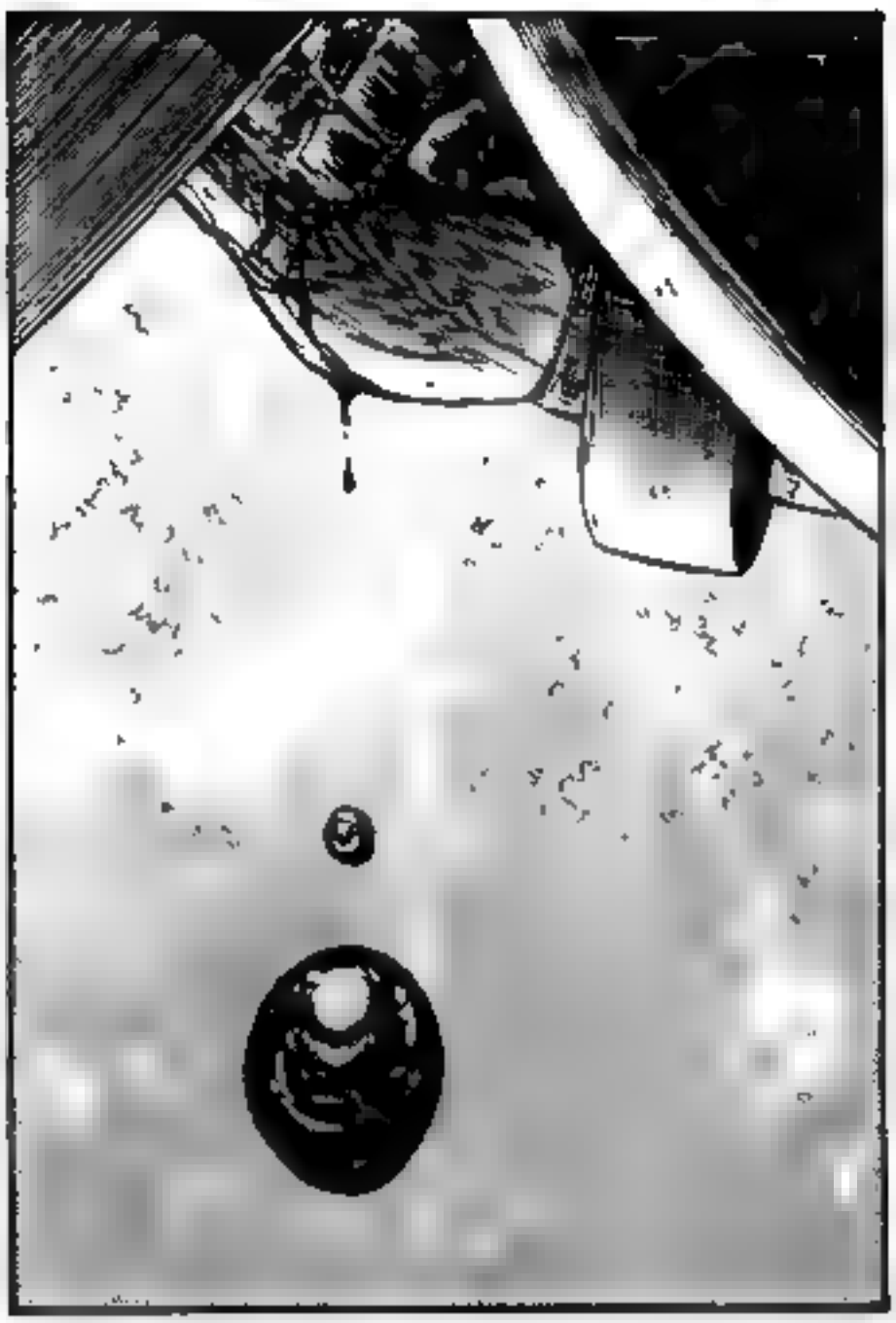


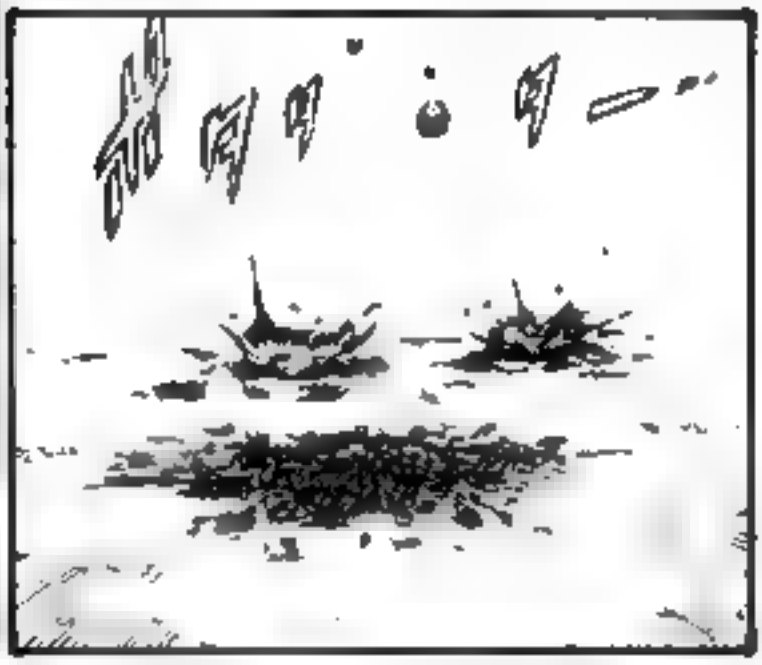
KA-100

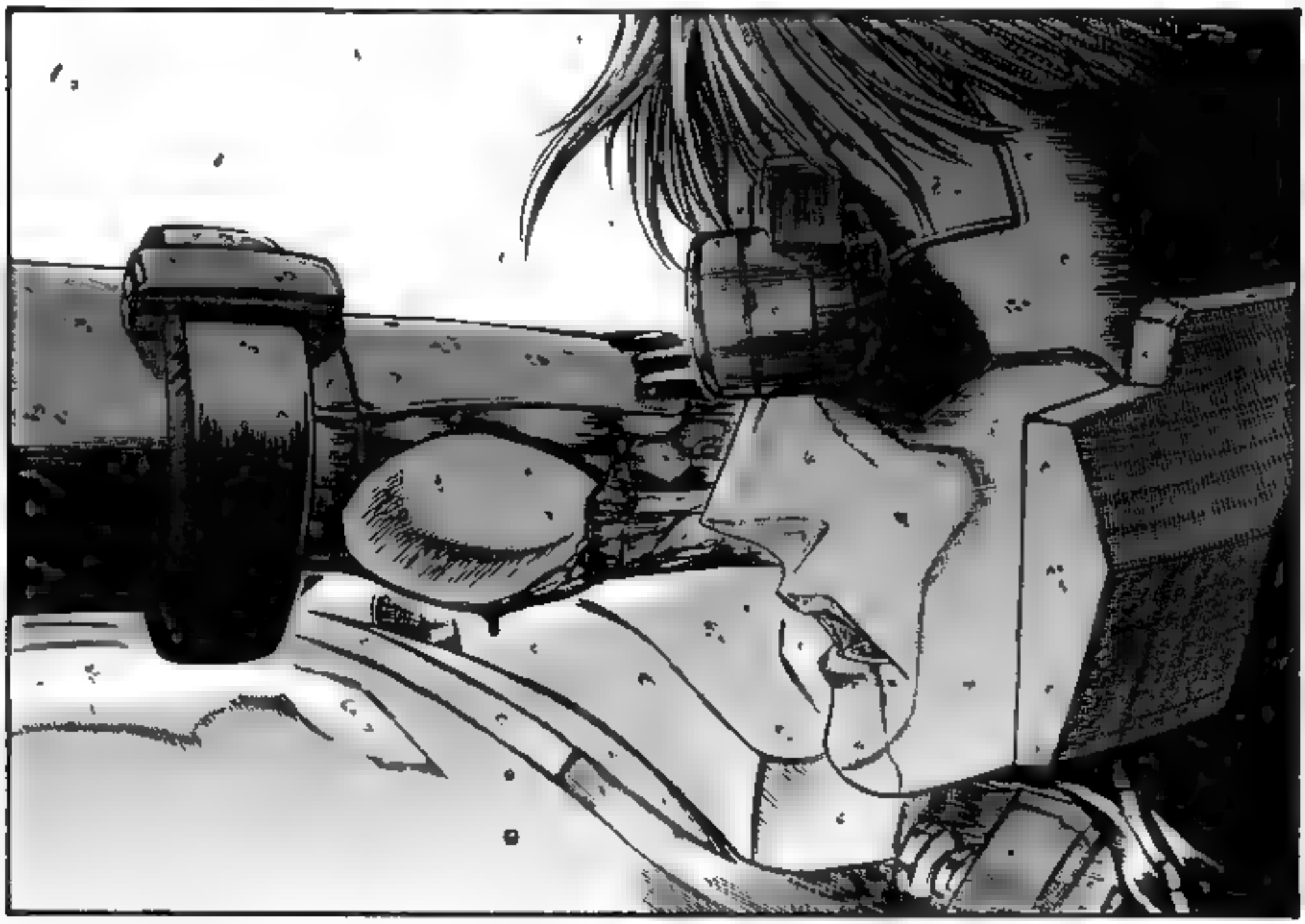


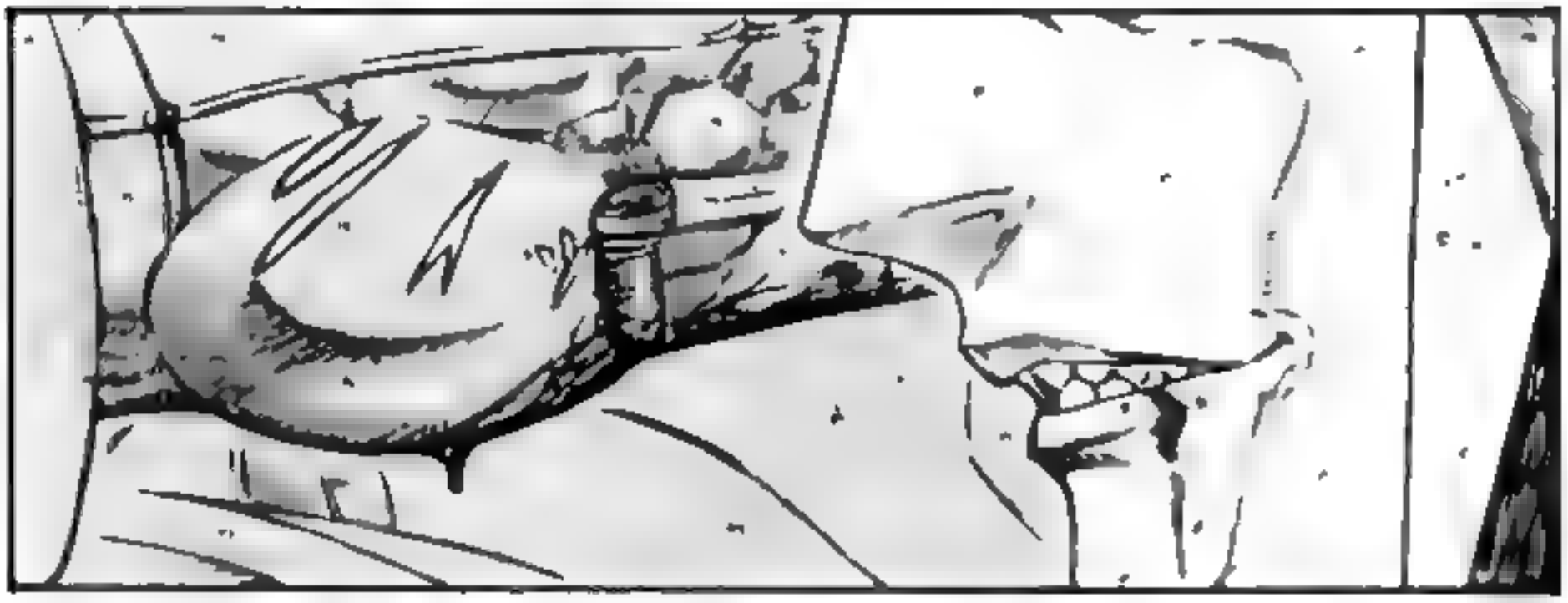


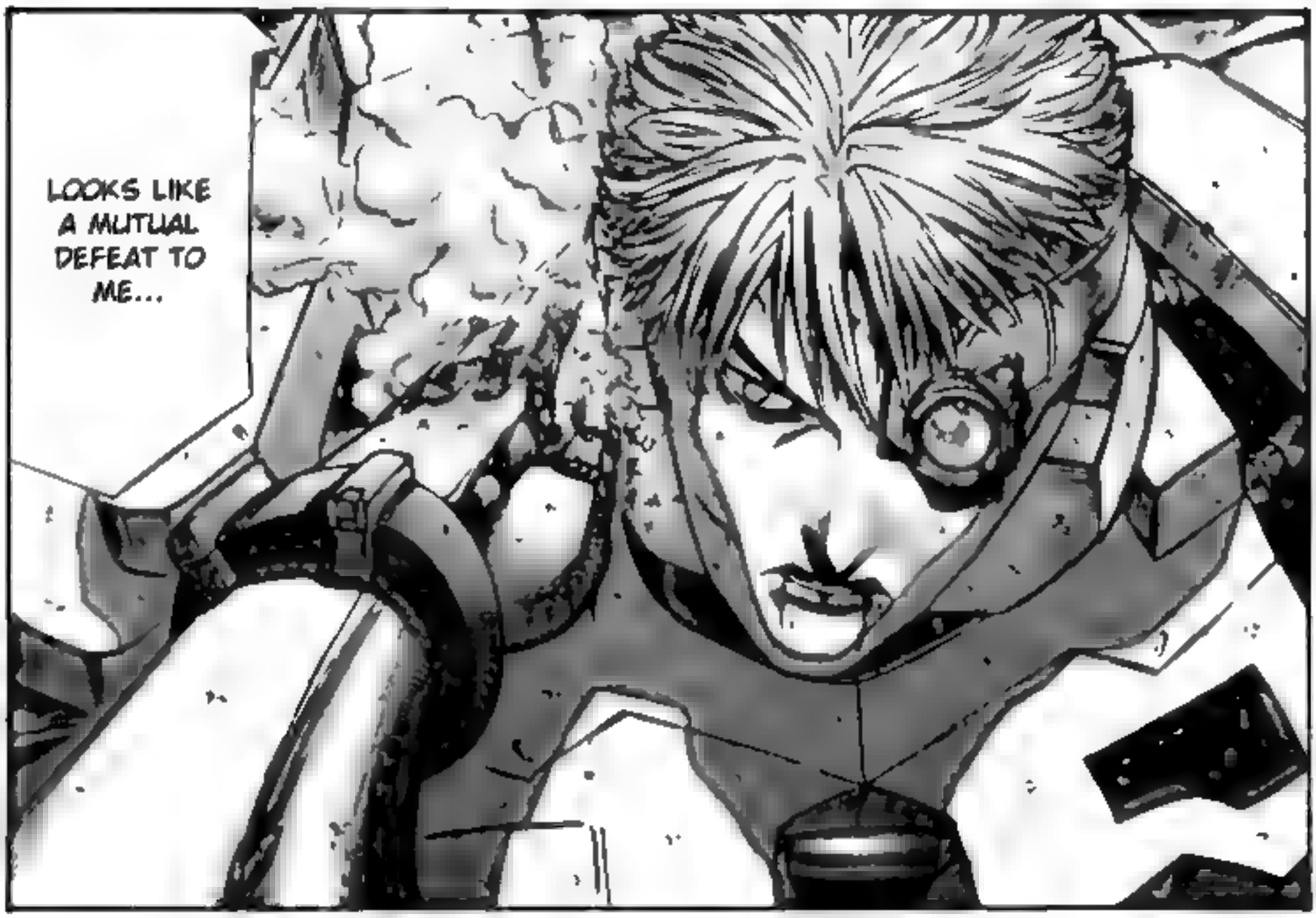











LOOKS LIKE A MUTUAL DEFEAT TO ME...

NOT QUITE...

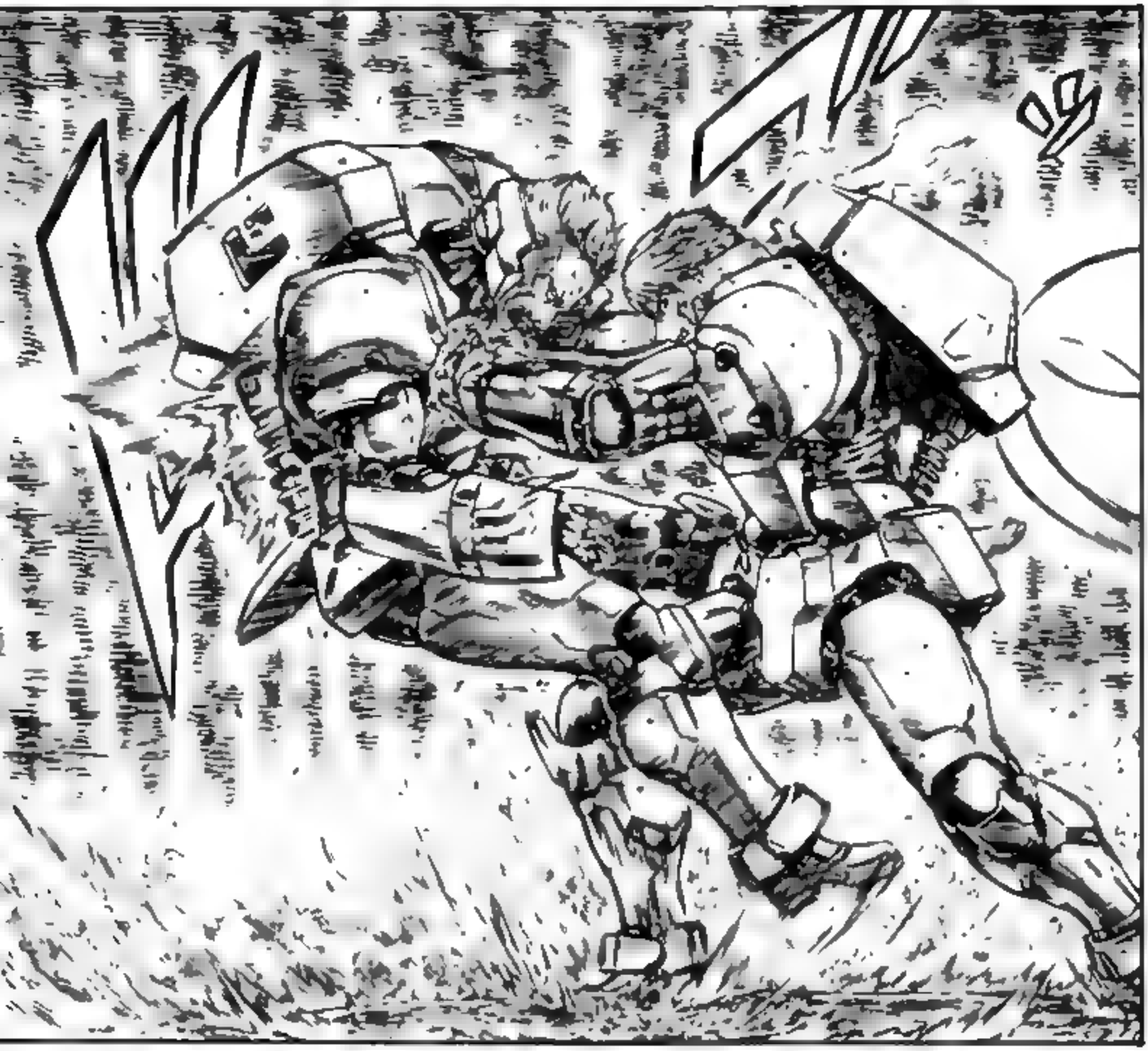
WHEN YOU HAVE AN ACE IN THE HOLE, YOU KEEP IT HIDDEN...

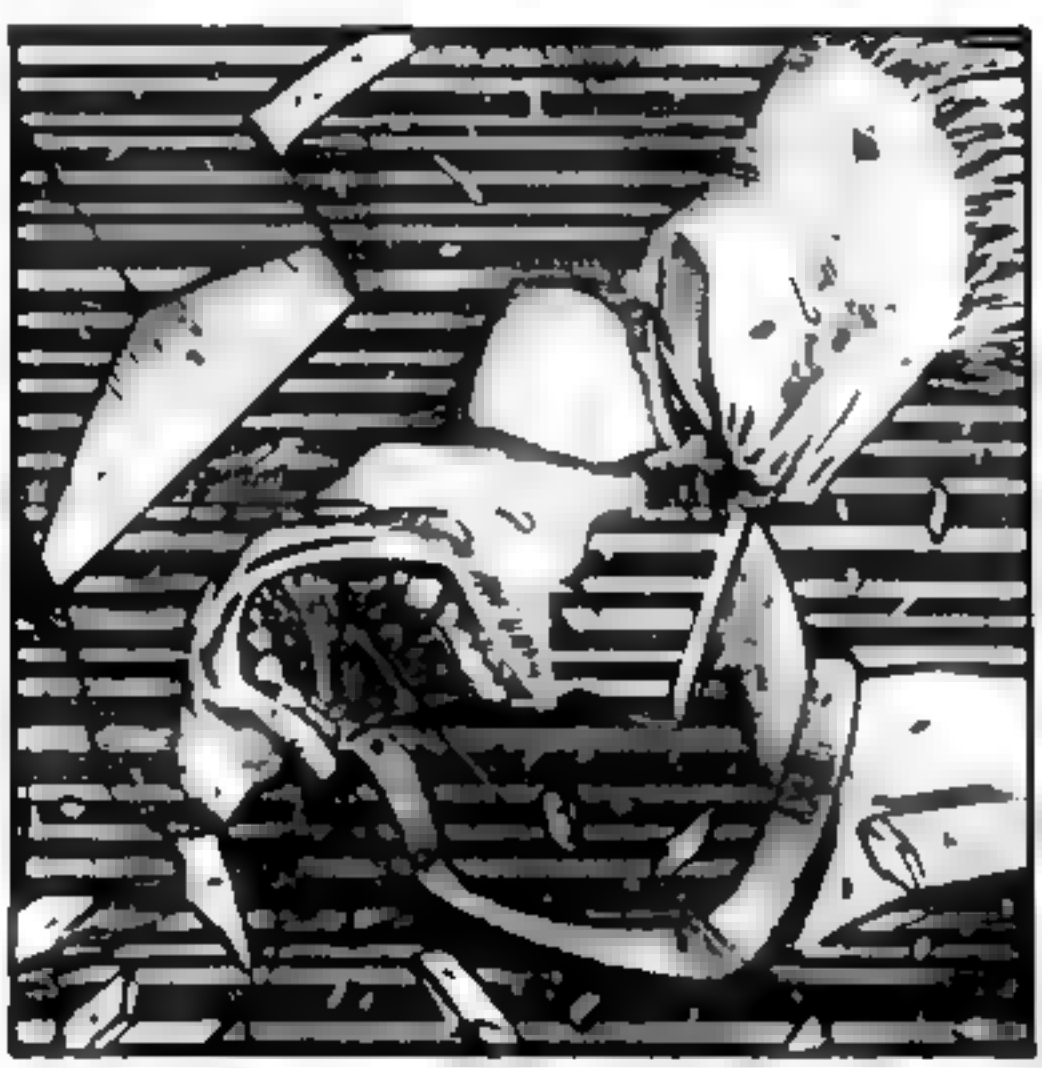
!

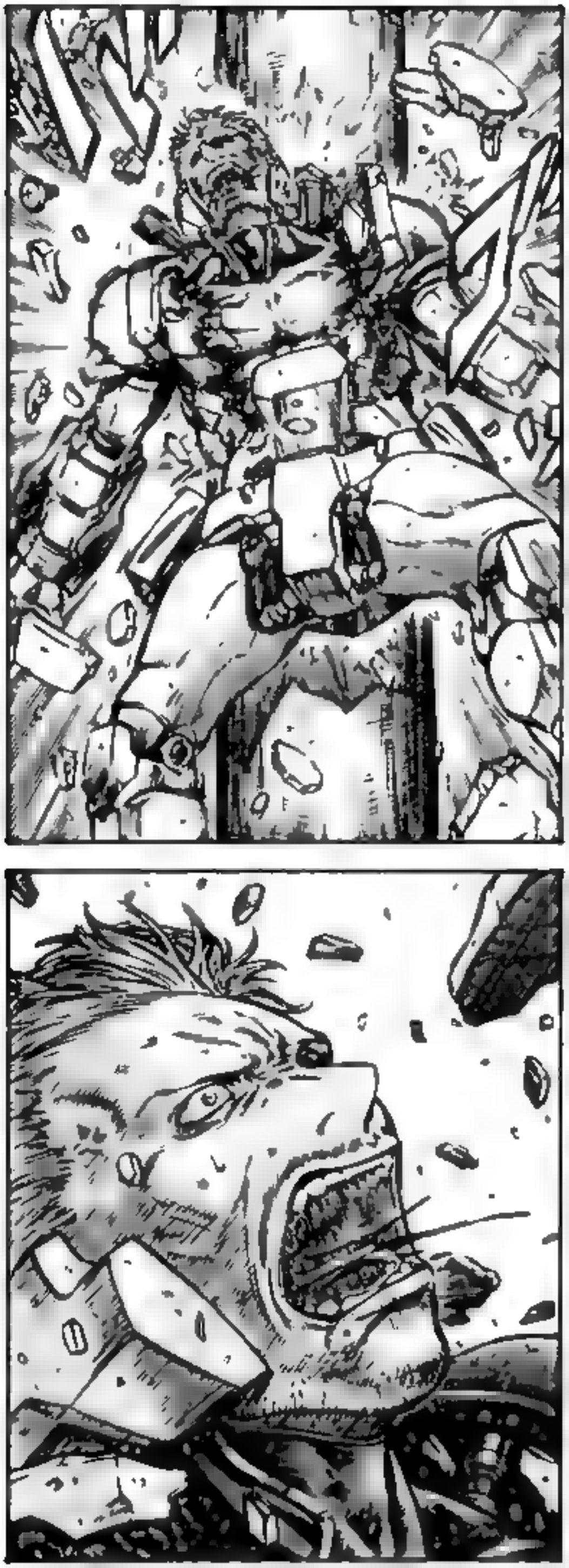
...TILL THE VERY END!!

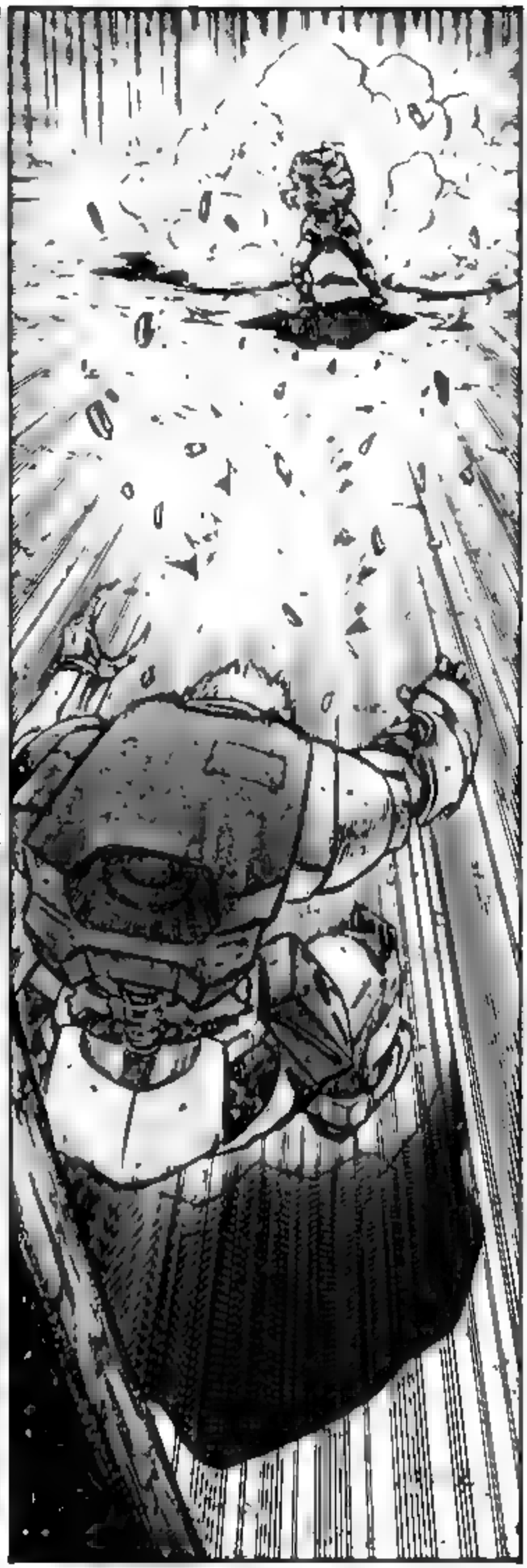
IT'S POINTLESS TO HAVE A TRUMP CARD...

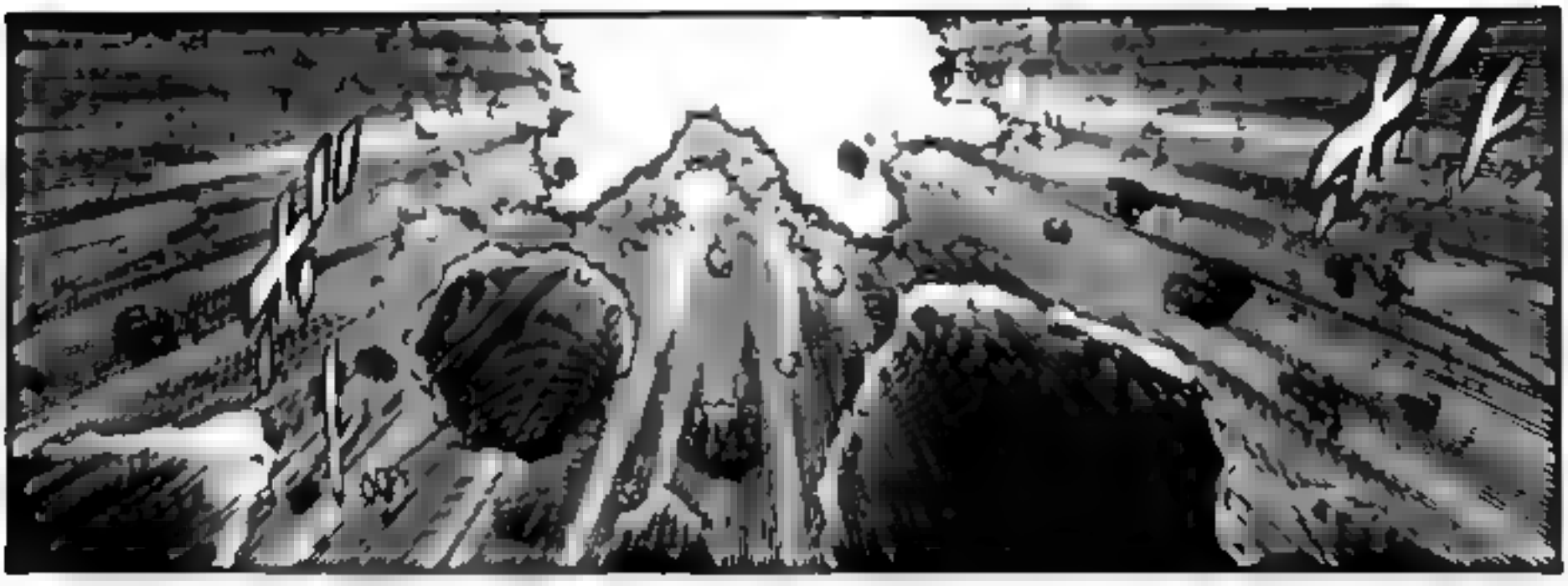
...IF YOU CAN'T HIT YOUR TARGET WITH IT.

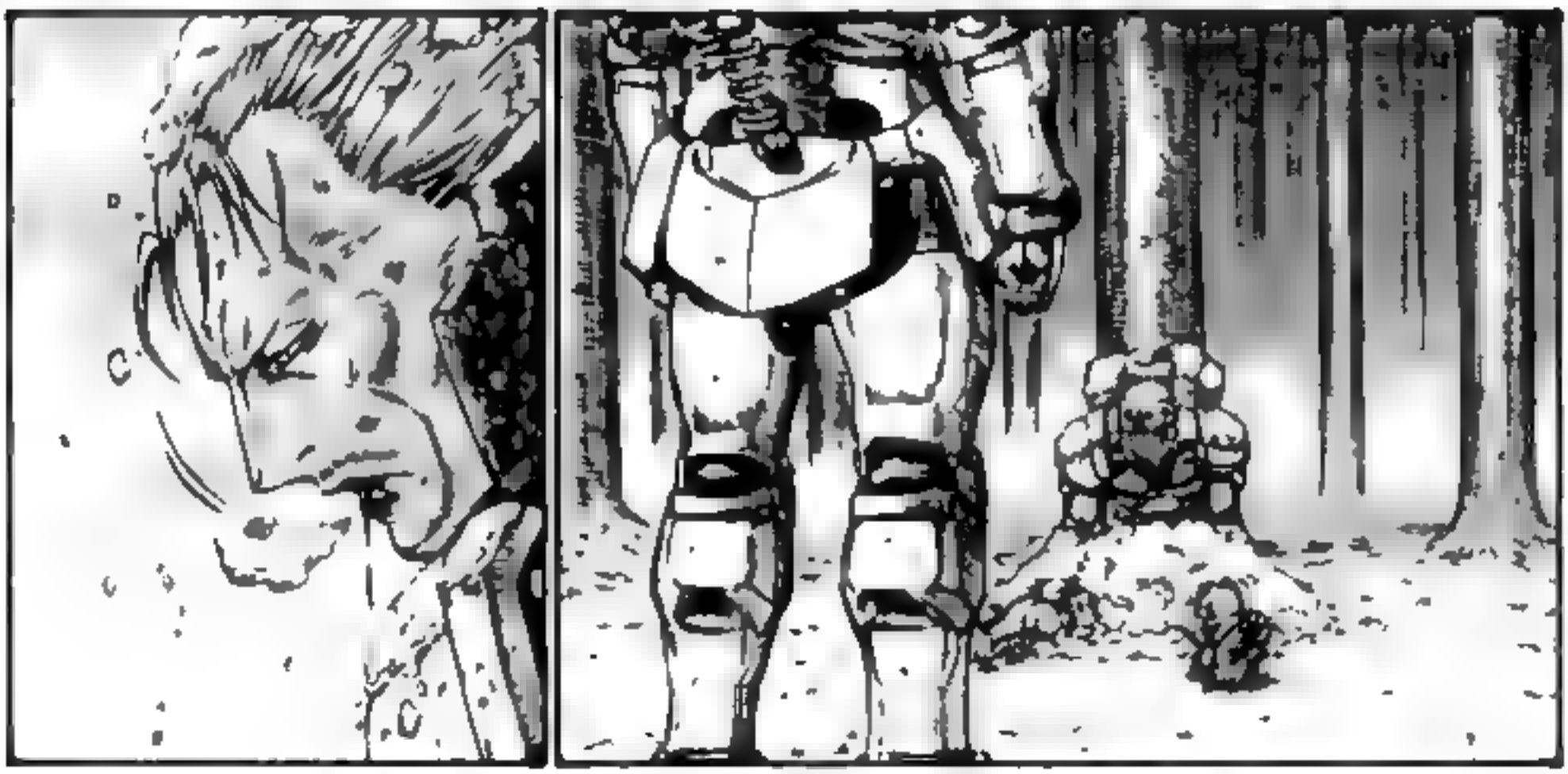








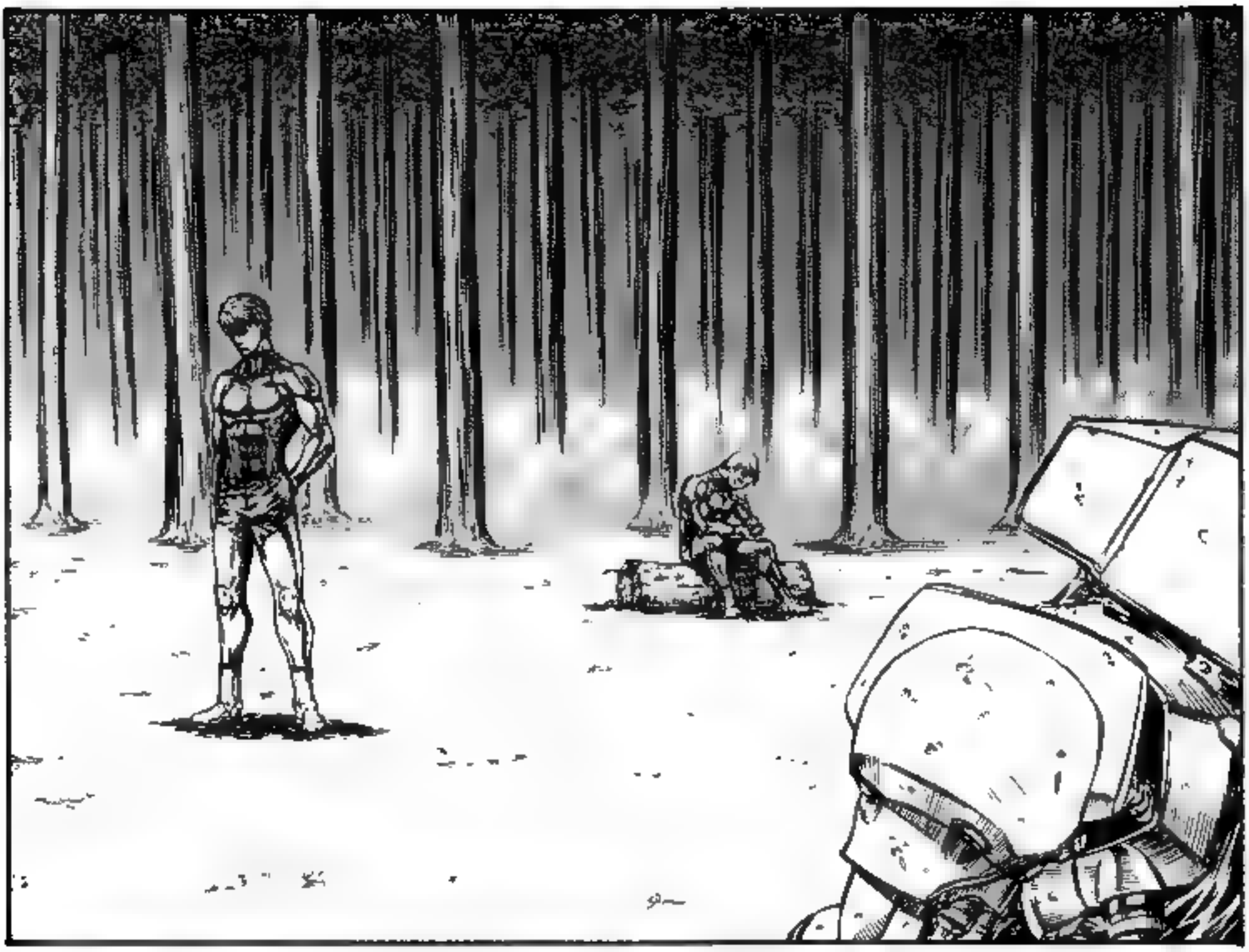


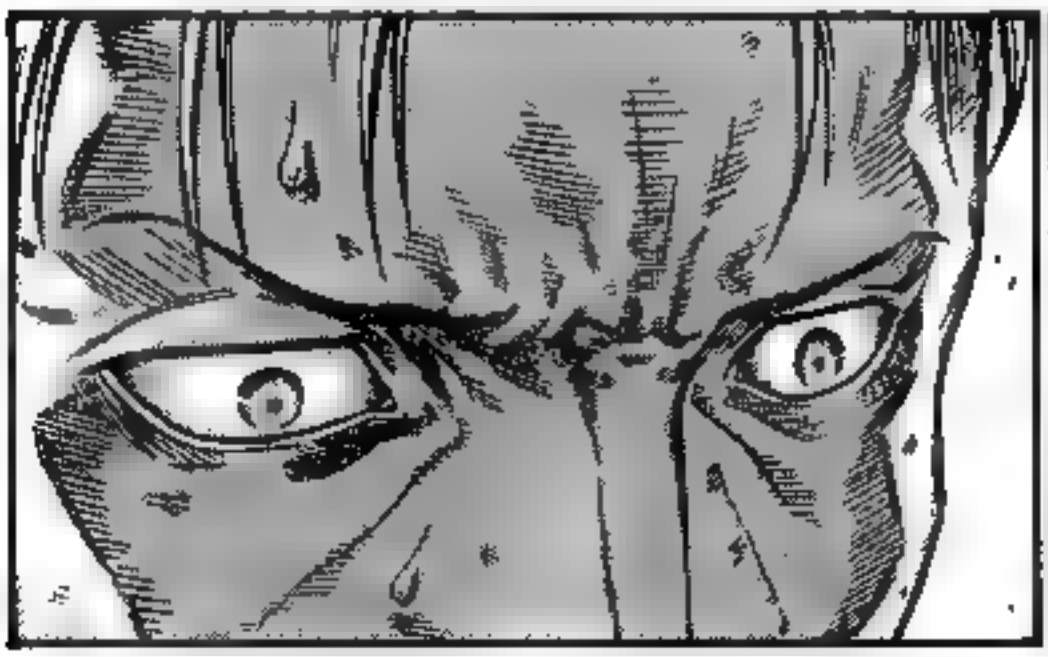

THE GENUINE ARTICLE...
...LOOKS LIKE YOU REALLY ARE GENOCIDE, AFTER ALL.

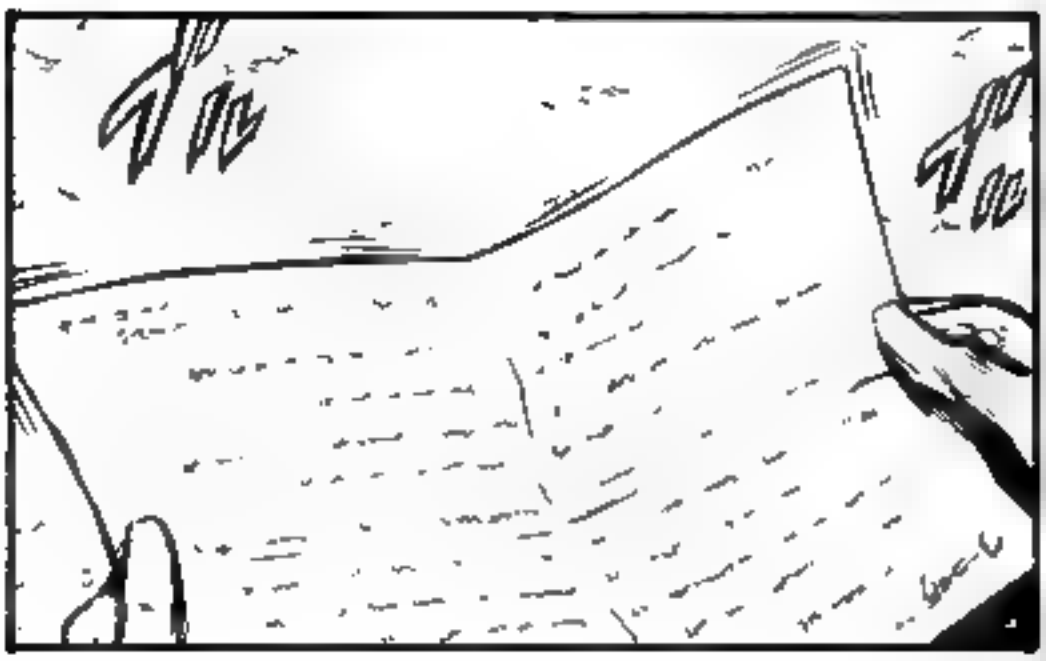
I TOLD YOU...

...TO DELIVER THIS TO YOU...

I CAME HERE...







JUNE 6TH, 182.
SOUTH OF SAN PIENA,
VALESSIA PROVINCE.

LET'S RETREAT FROM HERE!

MAJOR MASETTI! WE CAN'T KEEP THIS UP!!

REGULUS ARMORED BATALLION PROVISIONAL MASETTI TASK FORCE.

WE'LL EXHAUST THE BATTALION, THE REGIMENT... ...EVEN THE WHOLE DIVISION IF NEED TO BE, BUT WE WILL STOP THEIR PROGRESSION!

IF WE WITHDRAW NOW, THEY'LL BUILT UP MOMENTUM AND COME CRASHING IN!

WE'LL BE EXTERMIN-ATED!

AT THIS RATE...

...BUT EVERY LAST ONE OF US IS INJURED.

THESE ARE MY...

...LAST BULLETS ...

PASS ME SOME AMMO!

WE CAN'T POSSIBLY FIGHT WITHOUT AMMUNITION!

BESIDES, THERE ARE EVEN MORE OF THEM THAN BEFORE!

MAJOR, WE MUST WITH-DRAW!

SIR!

...DOC!

HE'S AN ENSIGN IN THE DORGE CORPS.

SEND THIS TO SEPP SIEBERNAU ...

YE... YES SIR!

I'M COUNTING ON YOU!

THOSE OF YOU WHO WANNA FLEE...

...MAY DO SO!

...I WON'T FORCE ANYONE...

ARE THEY GOING FOR A LAST STAND OR SOME-THING?

SMOKE BOMB..?!

DRAGNOV 72ND ARMORED GRENADIER DIVISION. 361ST INFANTRY REGIMENT, 2ND BATTALION.

THEY'RE PREPARING THEIR RETREAT, AND THIS WAS THE FIRST STEP.

ON THE CONTR-ARY.

...I'LL FIGHT!

MAJOR ..?!

EVEN IF I'M THE ONLY ONE REMAINING...

MAJOR !!

I'M SORRY, SEPP...

HAA

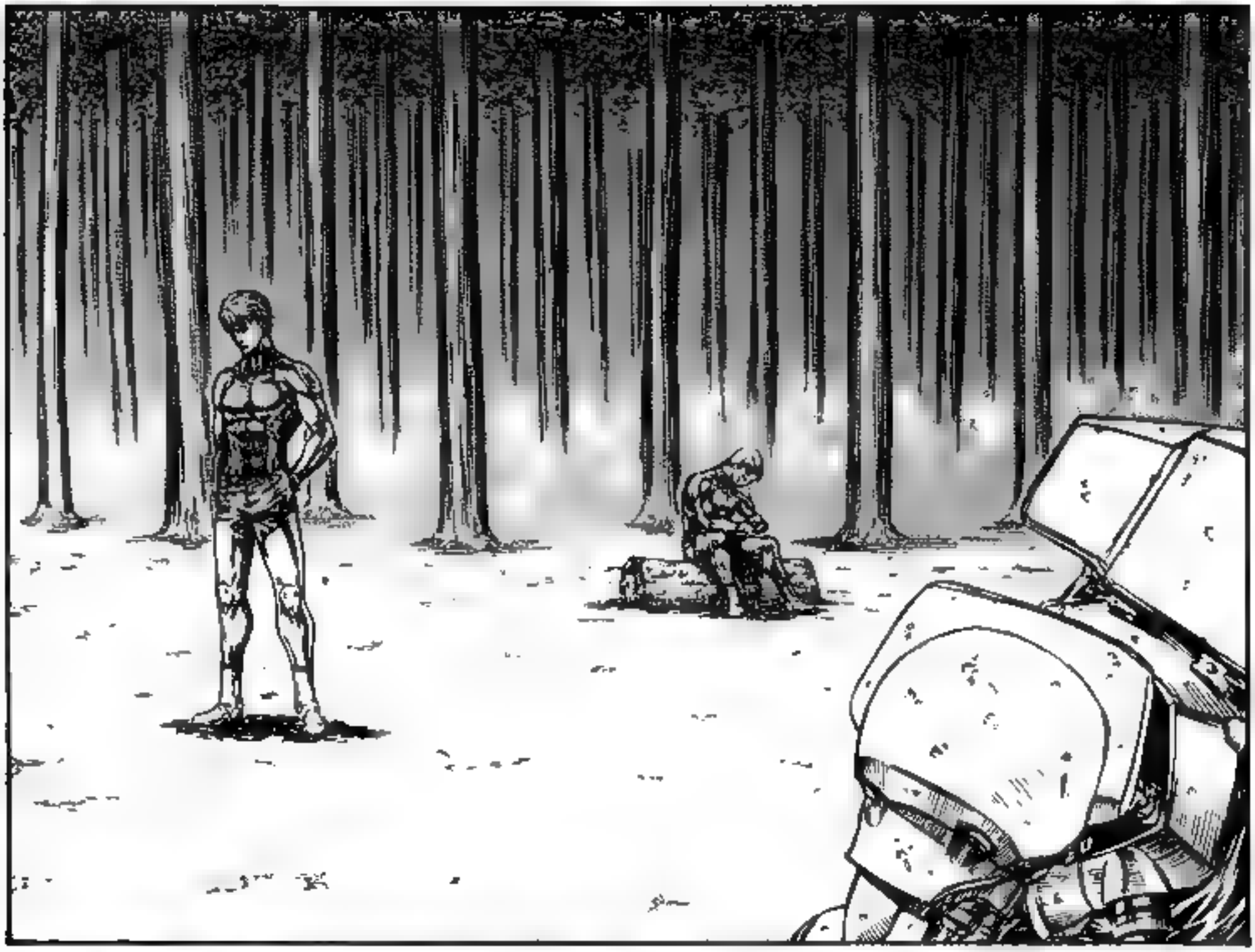
HAA

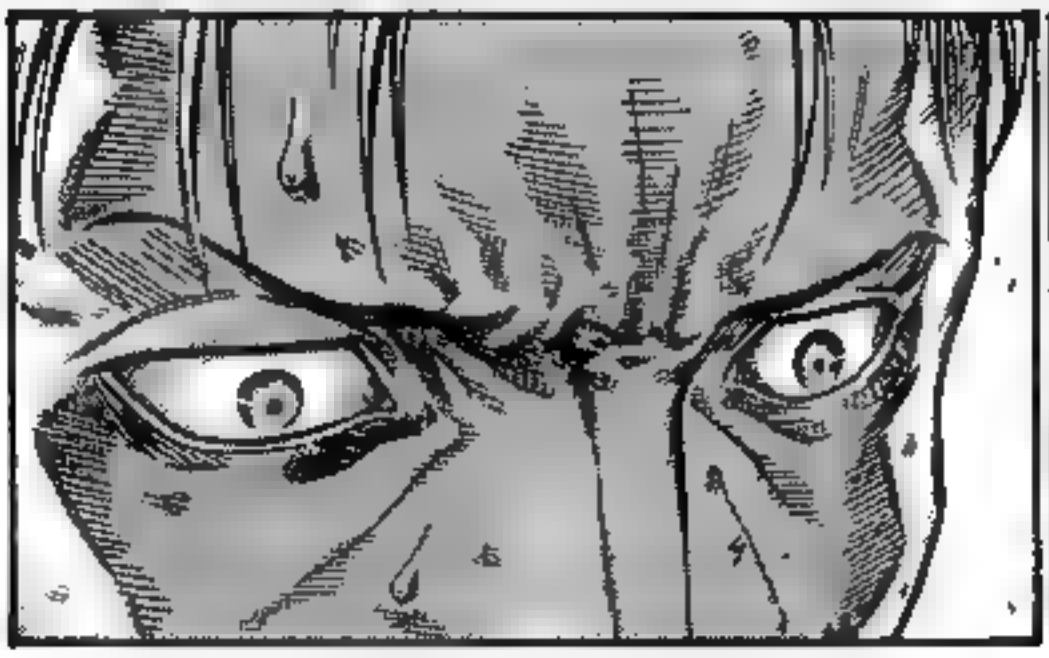
...TO FULFILL OUR PROMISE!

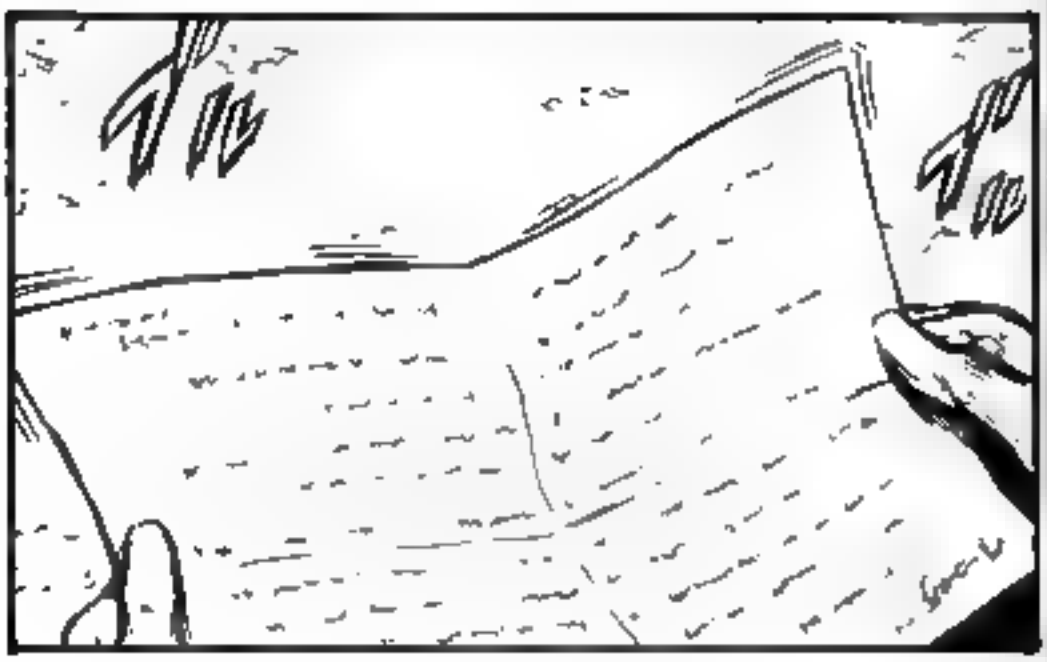
LOOKS LIKE I WON'T LIVE LONG ENOUGH ...

ICE CREAMS

54
S.A.A SPECIAL FORCE+JACKAL







WHERE'S MAJOR MASETTI?!

FROM TOP DOWN!! IT'S THE DIVISION.

INCOMING COMMUNICATION!

THE MAJOR... HE JUST SLIPPED INTO THE SMOKE...

#32 CLASPED LETTER

FRIENDLY SPECIAL FORCES ARE COMING TO OUR AID! THEY'LL BE THERE WITHIN 30 MINUTES!

HE ATTACKED?! WHAT ON EARTH...

NO... NO WAY ..!

MAJOR..

AIM!

ARE THEY COMING OR WHAT ?!

HM?

!

YOU GUYS KEEP AN EYE ON OUR SURROUND-INGS!

WAIT! THIS IS PROBABLY A TRICK!

THEY'RE TAKING US FOR AMATEURS.

WHAT THE?! HE'S ONLY ONE MAN..!

THIS ONE'S MINE!

SEPP... AS YOUR "FATHER", FIGHTING IS THE ONLY THING I EVER TAUGHT YOU.

NOW I REGRET IT.

BUT THAT'S IT...

PRETTY WORKED UP, FOR AN OLD WARDOG!

OLD GUYS LIKE YOU ONLY NEED...

...TO BE SHOWN THE WAY OUT!

WHAT ?!

...LOSE THIS WAR.

WE WILL PROBABLY ...

TSK! PERSISTENT AS A COCK-ROACH!

WHATEVER MAKES YOU HAPPY...

...I'LL BE HAPPY WITH AS WELL, MY SON.

CHOSE THE WAY YOU WANNA LIVE YOUR LIFE...

WHEN THE WAR IS OVER...

KA

THE HELL'S WRONG WITH YOU, GRAMPS ?!

JUST DROP DEAD ALREADY !!

YOU GIVE ME THE CREEPS!

I'VE GOT YOUR BACK, LIEUTEN-ANT!

SHIT!

OLD FOSSIL...

YOU MISSED.

!!

HUMPH... YOUNGSTERS!

GREN-
ADES!!

WHAT
ARE YOU
..!!

YOU
SENILE
OLD MAN!
LET GO
OF ME!!

LE...
LET ME
GO!

FUCK-ING OLD FART!

ULUNGH ...

LET GO, YOU HEAR ME!!

DIE IF YOU WANT TO! BUT LEAVE ME OUT OF THIS!

GASP!

...HUMPH! IS THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT?

HIC...

SEPP.

LET ME GO! LET ME GO!!

AAAAA-AAARGH! LET ME GO!

...I WOULDN'T EXCHANGE FOR ALL THE MONEY IN THE WORLD.

THE TIME I WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO SPENT IN YOUR COMPANY...

GAH!

STARTING TO KICK THE BUCKET, ARE YA?

WHAT ARE YOU BLABBERING ABOUT ?

HAAAAAA AAARGH!

...I AM GRATEFUL.

FATE HAS PLACED YOU ACROSS MY PATH, AND FOR THIS...

HYU- URGH UUU- RGH...

KILL HIM DEAD!!

WHA... WHAD ARE YOU WAIDING FOR? SHOOD HIB!

WAI-WAIT! DON'T YOU RUN AWAY!!

EEEEE-EEEK!!

SEPP...

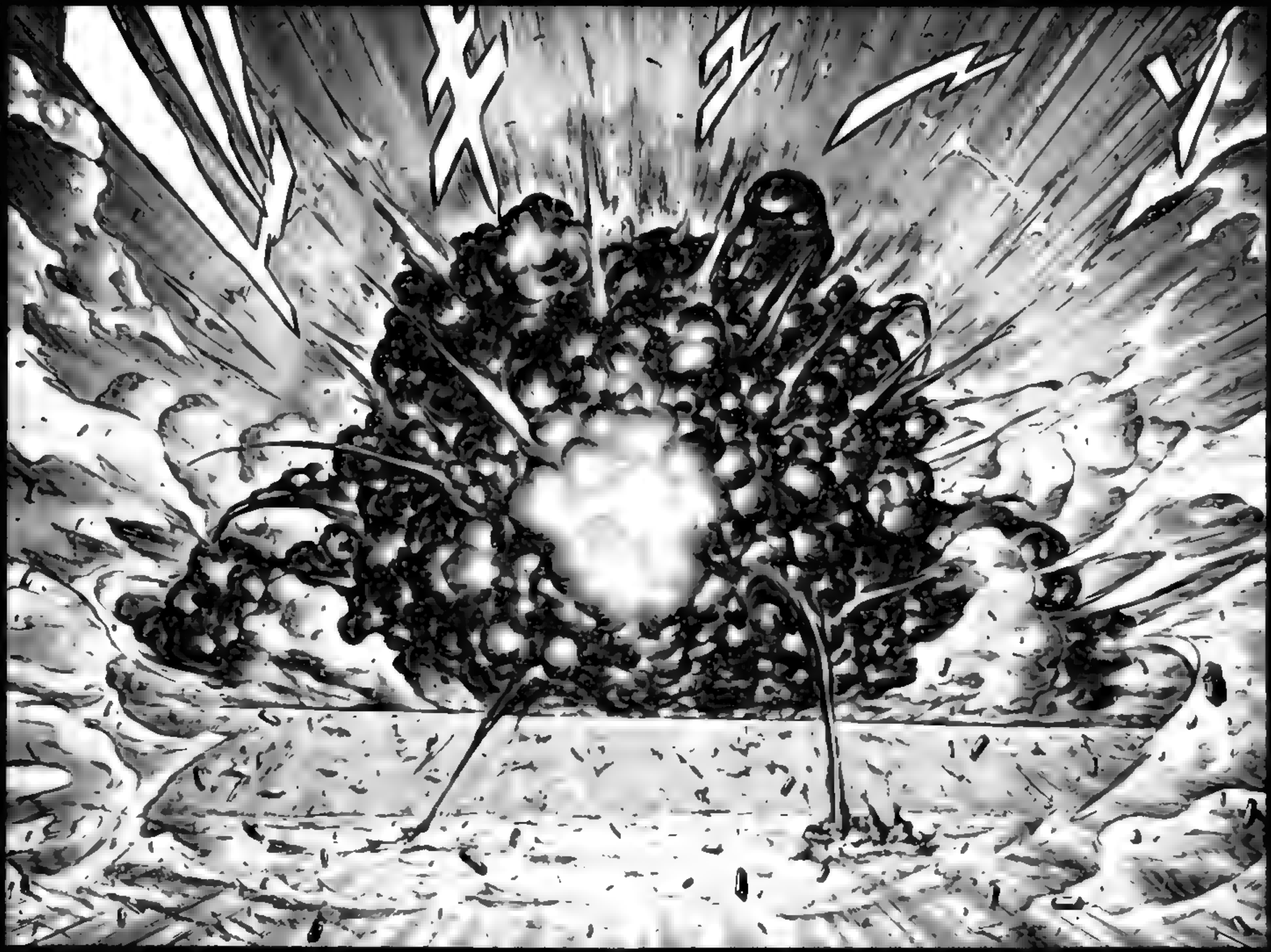
MY MOST... BELOVED SON...

YOU ARE MY PRIDE.

AAAAAA-AAARGH! I DON'T WANNA DIIIIIEEE!!

...AND LIVE ON.

STAY STRONG...



MAJOOO-
OOOOR!!

THIS... THIS IS...

IT CAN'T BE...

WHY...
...FOR WHAT REASON ..?

WHAT DID THE MAJOR SACRIFICE HIMSELF FOR, THEN..?

AFFIX BAYONETS !!

EVERY-ONE!

YES SIR!!

SIR!

!?

THE SPECIAL FORCES WILL BE THERE SHORTLY!

STOP THIS, ENSIGN!

...ARMORED BATTALION, MASETTI TASK FORCE, SIR.

...WHAT'S THE NAME OF OUR UNIT?

MASETTI !!

MAJOR FABIO...

WHO'S OUR COM-MANDING OFFICER ?!

...MY WISH IS TO FOLLOW HIM WHEREVER HE GOES.

AS A SOLDIER AND AS ONE OF HIS MEN ...

YOU'RE A MEDIC. ...AND ...

THEN I'M COMING WITH YOU!

...THE MAJOR HAS GIVEN YOU AN ASSIGNE-MENT.

SEE TO IT...

THAT IT IS FULFILLED!

SIR..!

...SHALL ANNIHILATE THE ENEMY!

NOW THE MASETTI TASK FORCE...

CHARGE
!!

WE'RE A BIT TOO LATE, IT SEEMS...

MEDIC!

YOU'D EXPECT THEM TO BE ABLE TO HOLD OUT FOR 30 MINUTES

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT MAJOR MASETTI'S SQUAD, HERE

DID THE MAJOR AND THE REMAINING SOLDIERS MANAGE TO RETREAT SUCCESS-FULLY?

EVERYBODY, ME EXCEPTED...

...HAS BEEN FIGHTING TO THE BITTER END IN AN EFFORT TO OBLITERATE THE ENEMY...

...IS NOT THE KIND OF MAN TO RETREAT OR FLEE.

...THE MAJOR FABIO MASETTI ...

AND THEY DIED IN BATTLE. ALL OF THEM!!

NO..!

SO ANOTHER HERO FALLS...

I SEE...

NOT "HERO", BUT "HEROES" !!

...TRUE.

CAPTAIN MILLS. GARDNER REPORTING FROM RECON.

FIVE VEHICLES PLUS ONE SQUAD OF ARMORED INFANTRY ESCORTING THEM.

ENEMY TRANSPORTATION SQUAD SPOTTED 6 KILOMETERS EASTWARD.

YOU WILL LEAD THE SQUAD AND KICK THOSE VEHICLES DOWN

LIEUT-SMART KRAYZ

LET'S SEIZE THE OPPORT-UNITY

ROGER THAT. LET US SHOW THOSE DRAGNOVIANS JUST HOW TERRIFYING THE JACKALS CAN BE.

LENNY YOU GO LOOK FOR AN HELICOPTER

SOMETHING LARGE ENOUGH FOR THE TRIUMPHAL RETURN OF ALL THOSE HEROES AT ONCE.

WHAT KIND OF HELI-COPTER?

YES SIR!

A HUGE ONE. KING-SIZED.

THANK YOU, SIR!

ROGER!

YOU'D PROMIS-ED...

...FA-THER!

...IS IT TRUE..?

IS THE WAR REALLY OVER?

...BUT ...

SO YES, THE CONFLICT IS PRETTY MUCH OVER.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS SIGNED A PEACE TREATY AND PROCEEDED TO MILITARY DISARMAMENT...

...A NEW WAR IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.

FOR YOU, HOWEVER...

...IT ALL DEPENDS ON YOU.

WHETHER IT DOES OR DOESN'T

...I WILL...

I WILL FIGHT!

...YOU NO LONGER HAVE...

NOW THE MAJOR MASETTI IS DEAD...

WHY?

...ANY REASON TO DO BATTLE.

A REASON TO DO BATTLE..?

I NEVER HAD SUCH A THING TO BEGIN WITH.

TALK ABOUT GRAND IDEAS.

IT JUST HAPPENS TO BE THE ONLY THING I CAN DO.

LUMP THE BOTH OF US FREAKS TOGETHER, EH...

THERE'S JUST ONE THING I NEED TO TELL YOU, THEN.

WELL...

MY FATHER ..!!

DON'T EVEN THINK OF FOLLOWING IN THE MAJOR'S FOOTSTEPS.

...WOULDN'T WANT ME TO DO SUCH A THING!

...IT'S TO FIGHT ON HIS BEHALF ...

ONE THING I CAN DO FOR HIM...

IF THERE'S ONE THING ...

...AND TO STAY ALIVE!

ENSIGN SEPP SIEBERNALI.

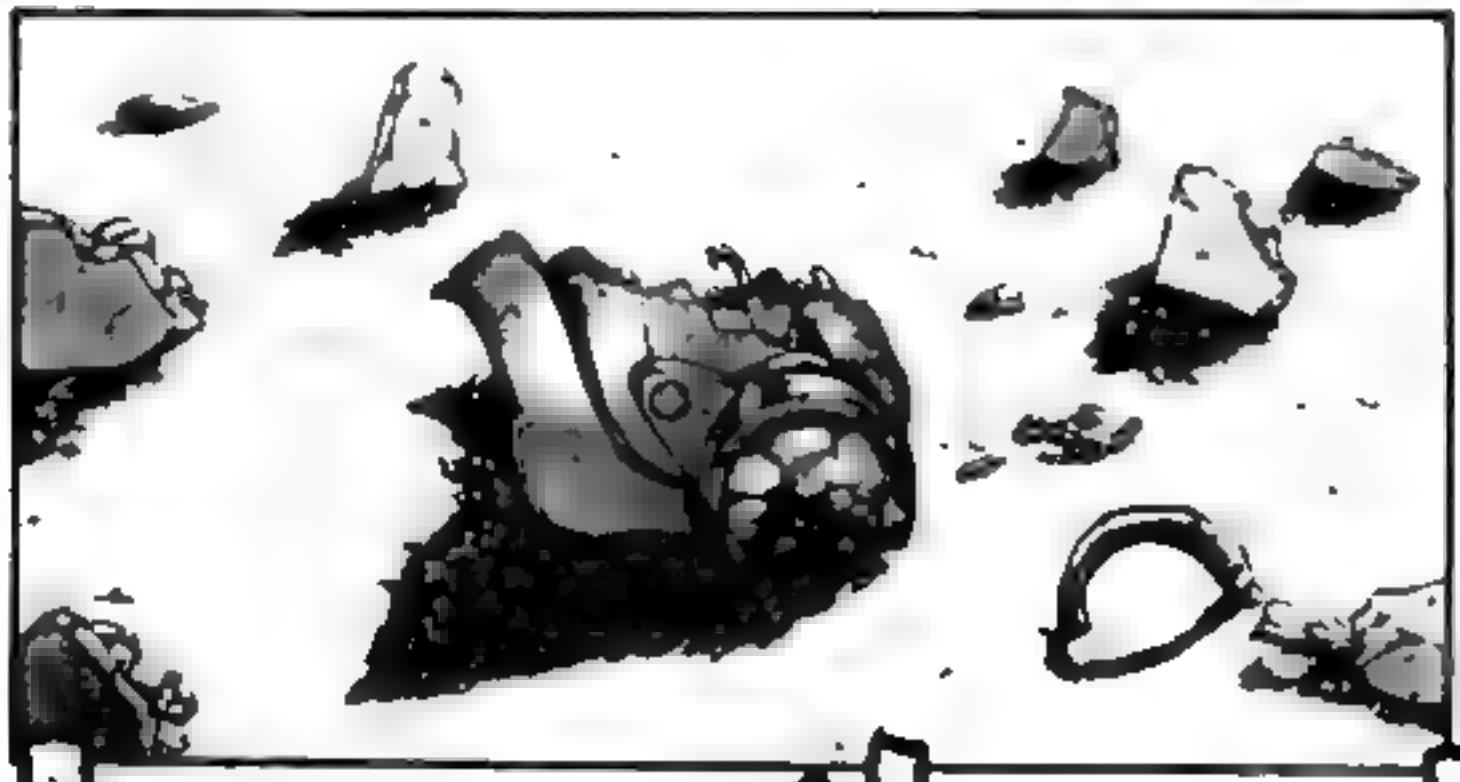
...YOU ARE RELIEVED FROM YOUR MISSION TO PROTECT MOUNT DRATTE.

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY ...

...AS A COMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE POPULAR REGIAN ARMY!

YOUR NEW ORDERS ARE TO RESUME YOUR POSITION ON THE FRONT LINE...

YES SIR!



to be continued...

講談社コミックス　KCDX2056

redEyes⑨
（レッド アイズ）

2005年8月17日　第1刷発行
定価はカバーに表示してあります。

著者——神堂 潤（しんどう じゅん）
発行者——五十嵐隆夫
発行所——株式会社 講談社
〒112-8001　東京都文京区音羽2-12-21
電話　編集部(03)5395-3458
販売部(03)5395-3608
装丁——朝倉健司
印刷所——図書印刷株式会社
本文製版所——豊国印刷株式会社
製本所——株式会社国宝社

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ISBN4-06-372056-X　Printed in Japan　N D C 726　227p　18cm

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〒112-8001　東京都文京区音羽2-12-21
講談社　月刊少年マガジン編集部「redEyes」KC係

この本は、月刊少年マガジン増刊GREAT2004年11月号　2005年1月号　3月号・5月号・7月号に掲載された作品を収録したものです。

【資料協力】
●アメリカン ガンキッズ　http://www.gunkids.com
●GUN SHOP アングス　http://www.angs.co.jp

MONTHLY SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

KCDX 2056

レッドアイズ redEyes 9

神堂 潤

講談社

9784063720563

雑誌 46294-56

ISBN4-06-372056-X

C9979 ¥505E (0)

講談社/定価:本体505円(税別)

1929979005054

MONTHLY SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

神堂 潤 作品

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CG illustration Taihei Yamanaka

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POWER-SCANLATIONS & OFFTOPIA

RAWS BY OWAI
TRANSLATION BY GOTTHEIM
CLEANING BY POWERMAN & MORTEN
EDITING BY MORTEN